

# THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

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DECEMBER 2, 2004

## Security phone concerns abound

Administration considers blue-light technology overhaul

BY JULIANNA FINELLI  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The University is planning to revamp the current blue-light security phone system, which telecommunications and security staff say is outdated and unreliable.

According to Lt. George Kibler, transportation manager for Hopkins Security, the blue-light security phones tend to malfunction in wet weather.

"The weather wreaks havoc on them," Kibler said. "That's why we're looking at a total transformation to a product that is hopefully free of these problems."

Hopkins Security performs weekly inspections of the security phones, checking the function of both the blue light on top of the structure and the telephone connection. If a phone fails to connect with the security department, a report is sent to Homewood Telecommunications, which handles all technology voice services for

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2

## Student data to be collected

Bill seeks access to enrollment info

BY SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Some civil liberties advocates are becoming apprehensive as the federal government looks into a proposal allowing the Department of Education to gather individual enrollment information on all students in colleges and universities.

The plan is a part of a mass restructuring of the database currently used to track higher education statistics. The Bush administration and Republicans in Congress, who want schools to hold more responsibility for what happens to their students, strongly support the reorganization.

Under the system, colleges and universities would be required to provide information on every student's individual movements, from matriculation to graduation.

The Department of Education would also, for the first time, have access to information necessary to calculate what a student pays in tuition after financial aid has been awarded, also called the net price of a school.

Because each student would be identified using his or her social security number, the Department of Education also has a detailed plan to keep these records secure, and to ensure they are used only for statistical purposes. The National Center for Education Statistics would hold the data and be responsible for interpreting and protecting it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

## SPORTS ECAC Champs

The Blue Jays notched their third straight ECAC title with a 26-23 win over Waynesburg College. The victory capped off a 9-2 record. Page A12

## Hopkins blows competition out of water



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

Hopkins swimmers take to the water last week in a meet against Yale in which the Blue Jays won, 136-126. See story on Page A12.

## Infighting rages among senior officials

StuCo officers Payal Patel, Brian Drolet trade accusations amid senior class feud

BY BRENDAN SCHREIBER  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The senior class delegation in Student Council is at a virtual standstill according to President Iverson Long, with calls for resignation and petitions for removal from office currently circulating.

Conflict among the senior officers surfaced nearly four weeks ago when several senior StuCo members asked class president Payal Patel to resign from her post, claiming that they could not trust her to fulfill the responsibilities that her position entails.

The situation became more complicated Tuesday night when, according to Board of Elections Co-Chair Michael Seibert, Patel submitted to StuCo a petition she had circulated to the

senior class calling for a recall of Brian Drolet as vice president of the class.

The petition, which was signed by 164 members of the senior class, accuses Drolet of excluding Patel from internal deliberations, violating an unspecified university policy and exercising poor judgment in making a decision that led to the loss of \$3,000 in class funds.

Patel claimed that Drolet mishandled the organization of a club night two weeks ago, which nearly led to the class having its funds frozen due to a violation of university policy.

"The way that Brian flippantly disregarded university policy in contract negotiations has really left the class in jeopardy of not having any further events or a Senior Week," Patel said.

"The catastrophic results of last week's social

event, along with Brian's stark refusal and total inability to work together with the entire class council, and dishonest intentions for the welfare of the senior class have sparked this," she added.

Drolet dismissed the claims as "libelous" and based "entirely on falsehoods."

"I am very upset by this defamatory attack on my performance as senior class vice president," he said. "If you ask the members of the senior class, other members of the Student Council, or [Director of Student Involvement] Jeff Groden-Thomas, they will all tell you that I am a respectable and energetic member of the council."

Drolet also maintained that he had the support of the other senior class officers during deliberations regarding the organization of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE A4

## Authors McDermott, Irwin share reading

BY CHARLOTTE BERNARD  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The writing seminars department sponsored a discussion and reading by Hopkins faculty authors Alice McDermott and John Irwin on Tuesday.

Hundreds of students, faculty members and staff gathered in Mudd Hall to listen to both authors examine their favorite passages from both old and new works.

"It's a tradition at Hopkins for writers to give back," said McDermott, noting that both she and Irwin had collaborated to present their shared works to a larger audience and Hopkins students.

"Well, we thought fiction and poetry would be a nice combination," said McDermott.

McDermott read passages from some of her older works, as well as from her most recent novel, *Child of My Heart*.

"Overall, I thought her reading was both powerful and insightful," said sophomore Chris Johns. "She

takes the ordinary and somehow makes it both witty and unforgettable."

Irwin, a professor in humanities and writing seminars, also read his own pieces of writing.

Irwin, who often writes under the pen name John Bricuth, shared some of his favorite poems from his collections of poetry, *The Heisenberg Variations and Just Let Me Say This About That*.

"It was nice to have the juxtaposition of both the humor and complexities of Alice McDermott's writing and the cynical undertones of Irwin's poetry," said sophomore Emma Esock-Burns.

Several students were impressed with the entire event.

"I was really excited for the event," said Esock-Burns. "It's a really good way for us to see and hear the works that our own teachers are writing."

McDermott is a writer and professor in the writing seminars de-

CONTINUED ON PAGE A2



KATE FALLANO/NEWS-LETTER  
National Book Award-winner and Hopkins professor Alice McDermott appeared at Mudd Hall in a reading with professor John Irwin.

## FOCUS Shop 'till you drop

If you're at Hopkins, you're probably a procrastinator. But start your holiday shopping early by checking out our Holiday Shopping Focus. Page B2



B2

## ARTS Stand-up guy

Graduate student Adam Ruben is trying to bring humor to Hopkins. Good luck. Check out his performance next Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Arellano. Page B6



B6

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# StuCo confirms 2005 MSE chairs

BY LEAH BOURNE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Student Council announced the appointment of the 2005 Milton S. Eisenhower Symposium chairs this Tuesday, and confirmed the symposium's upcoming theme.

Juniors Emilie Adams, William Ares and Garvey Rene will co-chair next year's Symposium, which is entitled "American Mass Media: Redefining the Democratic Landscape."

According to the appointed chairs, the theme of the symposium aims to explore the role of media today in the political process, particularly because the political media itself has become newsworthy and increasingly viewed as partisan and divided.

The symposium will also deal with broad issues of race, gender and politics.

Co-chair William Ares explained that the development of the symposium's theme reflected his own observations of the country's political atmosphere.

"My personal experience with the Symposium led me to want to become involved," Ares said. "I want to bring a more balanced array of speakers to campus, speakers that are balanced in their political views and ideology, as well as in their race and gender."

According to Ares, the upcoming symposium's focus on media came from the fact that he was "engrossed in politics for the last two or three months. I was watching every news show that I could get my hands on."

When Ares was exploring possible ideas for the symposium, he suggested the "interplay of media and politics."

Ares added that he and his co-chairs planned to choose "well-known speakers, or speakers that are a little more well-known, and appealing to a broader base by addressing pertinent issues."

"Some of the speakers in this years symposium didn't fit," Ares commented, "and a lot of speakers don't stay on the topic of the symposium."

The decided topic of media and



(Left to right) Juniors William Ares, Emilie Adams and Garvey Rene were declared MSE Symposium co-chairs.

politics, Ares said, was "sufficiently broad, yet focused enough to cover different subtopics."

The new co-chairs also announced plans to improve publicity for MSE Symposium events.

Ares commented that he wanted "the majority of people to turn out."

"We are going to engage in a strong publicity effort focusing on other schools in the area, including colleges and high schools," Ares added, "and hopefully will use the *Baltimore Sun* and the *CityPaper* to get the word out."

Getting the Hopkins community to come to symposium events is also extremely important to Ares and the other staff members of the MSE team.

According to Ares, the MSE Symposium "is a huge cost to the University and to not have everyone benefit would be a crime."

Ares said he "looks forward to getting to know and to listening to people that I have looked up to."

Two people that Ares particularly wants to bring to Hopkins are Bill O'Reilly, host of the controversial Fox show *The O'Reilly Factor*, and Dick Morris, a political consultant and author who Ares considers to be "an absolute genius."

"Running the symposium is a lot of work," Ares said. "All of us on the team are insanely involved on campus, and time management is going to be important."

However, Ares added that he is proud of the upcoming team of co-chairs for being "diverse and balanced, and bringing different life experiences and ideologies" to the symposium.

Lectures slated for next fall will address the relationship between the economy and the media, healthcare and current gender issues.

The MSE symposium was founded in 1967, and is one of the few in the nation that is entirely run by undergraduates.

Every year an intensive process

takes place to pick a theme and a team to plan and strategize the upcoming symposium.

The symposium broadly aims to address pertinent issues to the Johns Hopkins Community and its surrounding communities with lectures, debates and discussions.

In the past the symposium has brought such illustrious speakers as Nobel Prize winner Nelson Mandela and Academy Award winner Michael Moore.

# Students robbed at gunpoint last week

BY JOSEPH HO  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Two assailants, one of whom was armed, robbed four undergraduate students on Nov. 24 at 1 a.m. on the 3000 block of North Charles Street, near the Homewood Apartments.

The Baltimore Police responded shortly after the students reported the incident to Hopkins Security. No one was injured. The two assailants took money from all four students. Both of the assailants were black males wearing dark clothing. One man was around 5 feet 7 inches tall, and carried a dark handgun, while the other was approximately 6 feet tall.

"There were two people involved. They jumped into an older model maroon-colored Honda and drove from the area," said Officer Dennis Rosemary.

The students who were robbed were all upperclassmen. Apart from the four students, there were no other witnesses at the scene. After the incident occurred, the victims reported the robbery to Hopkins Security. The case was then passed onto the Baltimore Northern District Detective Unit.

"The investigation is primarily done by the Baltimore Police," said Rosemary.

Rosemary also added that there are currently no suspects. Among the four students attacked, Hopkins Security has been in touch with three of them. The investigation is still at its initial stages.

"If in any way we can assist [the police], we will, such as locating the students for interviews if they have

trouble," said Rosemary.

Staff from the security office will contact the Baltimore Police later in the week to see whether they have any additional information to the case.

Students who have any information with regard to the armed robbery are asked to call Hopkins Security at (410) 516-4600. Rosemary also advises students to call for escort shuttles at (410) 516-8700 when parking late at night, and to choose areas that are well-lit to pass by.

Rosemary added that, to avoid risk of serious injuries, students should relinquish property when confronted by armed robbers.

The series of recent armed robberies and break-ins have not only raised the concern of Hopkins Security; students have also expressed concerns about safety. While the Homewood campus is generally well-attended by security officers, the surrounding neighborhood may appear hostile to some students.

"On-campus I generally feel safe. I'm a little concerned with the area around me, but I'm not too worried since I don't really stray off-campus much," said Carmen Kut, a freshman.

However, there are also unfavorable responses towards security on campus despite the increased measures after the series of incidents on and off campus.

"I never really see any security around, except in the beginning of the term," said Eileen Shum, a freshman living in Wolman. Shum also said that the blue-light emergency phone system was not effective, as blue-light phones are very often out of order.

# Security phones cause concern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Homewood campus.

Bob Geldmacher, operations manager for Telecom, said security phone malfunctions are top priority.

After the security department sends its report, Geldmacher sends out technicians to assess the problem phones and fix them when necessary.

"We dispatch a technician to assess whether the problem is rain-related or truly an electrical problem," Geldmacher said. "We can replace the phone or its components, and the equipment is usually on stock."

Geldmacher stressed that a large number of malfunctions are due to rain, and technicians sometimes find reported problem phones in working order by the time they reach them.

"It's very much weather related," Geldmacher said. "After an hour, [a problem phone] could work fine."

The tendency for rain-related malfunctions has been the driving force behind efforts to upgrade the security phone system to one that can function in inclement weather.

In a joint effort on the part of the security department, Telecom services and facilities management, tentative plans have been made to utilize an entirely different technology.

"We've looked at a couple of different vendors, we have talked with a

number of other universities, and we've looked at a number of different technologies," said Geldmacher.

He continued, saying, "We've settled on one technology in particular, and are looking at which vendor should be used. Not only do we want a good system, but we also have a fiduciary responsibility to get the best value."

Geldmacher said phone malfunctions have always been an issue with the current system.

"As long as the phones have been there, there have always been problems," Geldmacher said.

He added, "Anytime you have a technology outside, where it's subject to weather and vandalism, you're going to have problems. We have seen more blue lights going out recently; it's an aging technology, which is why we're looking to upgrade."

In recent weeks, Hopkins security reports have listed about a dozen malfunctioning security phones, out of a total of 31 phones, on a daily basis.

According to both Kibler and Geldmacher, this was the result of a breakdown in communication between Hopkins Security and Telecom, and the problem has since been remedied.

"It was a case of two ships crossing in the night, but it got resolved," said Geldmacher.

"We immediately sent out techni-

cians to check all the phones. Some [previously reported] problems didn't exist; it had just been a problem when wet. We still took the phone apart and checked."

Currently, the security report lists 10 blue light problems; seven of the problems are related to the actual blue light atop the structure, and three involve a telephone failure.

Geldmacher said the blue lights will be fixed within the next couple of days, but said he is aware of only one malfunctioning phone, positioned in the Garland Lot near Clark Hall.

He said this phone is waiting on a part, and should also be fixed shortly.

Geldmacher noted that any discrepancy between the security report and Telecom's reported status could be due to timing — reports of malfunctions are sent to Telecom every morning, and Telecom has to report back either verbally or in writing that the problem is fixed before Hopkins Security adjusts its security report.

In addition to having weather-related problems, the current security phone system is directly connected to the campus telephone system — if the campus system is shut down, the emergency phones will be out as well.

Geldmacher said this is another factor being considered in upgrade plans.

According to Kibler, who has been serving as the security representative in project meetings, the most important features of a new security phone system are visibility, accessibility and reliability.

Currently, project plans are being discussed with administrators to determine funding and a time schedule.

Project planners hope to incorporate the system overhaul with plans to add approximately 22 security phones to the newly revamped San Martino Drive area.

"We're trying to marry the two projects, but we also want to make sure it's all done in a timely fashion," Geldmacher said.

## ERRATA

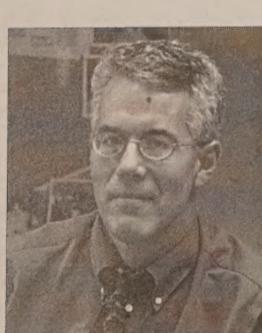
In the Nov. 19 staff editorial entitled "What Brody's salary means," Pres. William Brody was wrongly cited as the first Hopkins president since Milton Eisenhower to live in the Nichols House. Lincoln Gordon, Eisenhower's successor, had lived in the Nichols House until his resignation in March, 1971.

In the Nov. 19 article "Get inside the head of this psych professor," Dr. Drigotas' research concentration was incorrectly stated. Dr. Drigotas has concentrated his research in interpersonal relationships.

In the Nov. 19 article entitled "Vitamin E linked to high death rates," the government's recommendation for vitamin E intake was incorrectly stated to be 10 IU; the correct recommended amount is 22 IU.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

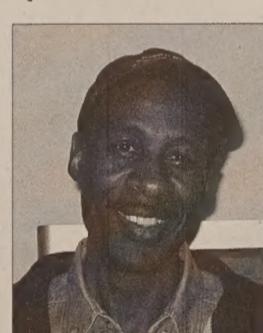
The News-Letter would like to thank the following unsung heroes for helping two witless editors when they could have turned us away. It's been a pleasure to work with you.



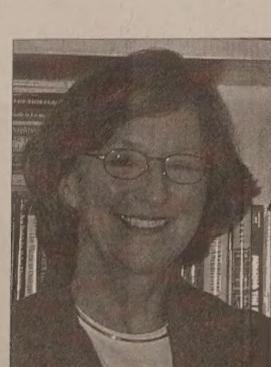
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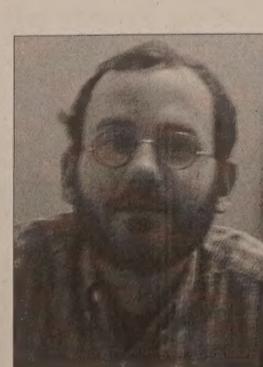
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Happy Holidays and best wishes.  
-Eric and Maany

# Poet Paul Muldoon reads selected works

BY DAVID CORRIGAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Described by the *Times Literary Supplement* as "the most significant English-language poet born since the Second World War," poet and Princeton Paul Muldoon gave a reading at Hopkins on Wednesday night.

Before a crowded room in Maryland Hall occupied by students, professors and community members, Muldoon chose ten poems to read and elaborate on. Muldoon used humor throughout the night, greeting people leaving and entering the auditorium, and offering them seats.

He began with one of his most famous poems, "Meeting the British," the title poem of his 1987 poetry anthology. It is a poem about the Pontiac Indians' meeting with the British before the French and Indian War, and the tragedies that befell the Pontiac Indians as a result.

"They gave us six fishhooks; and two blankets embroidered with smallpox," Muldoon said in the poem, speaking as a Pontiac Indian.

Muldoon then read the poem "Quoof," the title poem of his 1983 anthology, to the audience. He spoke to the audience about his childhood in Ireland, and explained the origins of the word "Quoof," which his father said was the sound his children had made when asking for the hot water bottle when they were young.

"How often have I carried our family word for the hot water bottle to a strange bed, as my father would juggle a red-hot half-brick in an old sock to his childhood settle," Muldoon read.

Muldoon later told the audience about his life in America. In 1986, Muldoon left his job as a producer for the BBC, and came to the United States to teach at Princeton University. He told a story about a stray dog, named Angus that he and his wife found in Vermont, and how the dog was approached by a coyote one night. He read a poem, called "The Coyote," that he had written about the incident.

He described the coyote as "veer-

ing down the track without the slightest acknowledgment from Angus, the dog lying in a heap on our porch like a heap of clothes lying beside a bed."

After reading a few more poems about life in New Jersey, Muldoon took some questions from the audience, the first of which was an inquiry into why Muldoon always gave a short explanation before reading his poems.

"The person who wrote these poems is only faintly co-terminal with myself," Muldoon joked, referring to an earlier comment by David Smith, of the Writing Seminars department, who introduced Muldoon by talking about his enigmatic personality.

Muldoon argued that, while some critics say humor cannot exist in a serious poem, he believed that, if it is done right, even the most serious of topics could be mixed with humor.

Muldoon was then asked why he had left his job at the BBC in order to become a poet. He responded by saying that it was not an either-or decision.

"I had been there [at the BBC] for a long time," Muldoon said. "I had been there for thirteen years, it was time for a change. And I had always been very interested with poetry."

For one of the final questions, Muldoon was asked about his homeland, Northern Ireland, and about why Ireland is often so prevalent in his works. Muldoon responded by saying that he had lived in Ireland for the first 35 years of his life, and then took the opportunity to comment on his native land.

"It is a great place, but we are terribly xenophobic. That's a bad thing, of course," Muldoon told the audience.

"We're finally starting to see ourselves as an actual country in the world, though," he added.

To conclude his presentation, Muldoon read a poem that he described as being completely nonsensical. Titled "Symposium," the poem appeared in a 1995 issue of *The New Yorker*, and combines common sayings to create new, nonsensical ones.

# E-voting expert Rubin talks to N-L

Hopkins professor of computer science and e-voting expert Avi Rubin spoke with News-Letter Opinions Editor Francesca Hansen, about the 2004 presidential election, voter fraud and the future of electronic voting in the United States.

**News-Letter:** How are you feeling now that the election is now nearly a month in the past?

**Avi Rubin:** "I think a lot of people have been missing the point. Before the election our biggest concern was that there could be an undetectable fraud. It wasn't that the machines couldn't work. We need to focus on election equipment that can't be rigged as easily. If they were rigged, there's no way to know now anyways. It's not that useful to try to prove that it was rigged, or complain that it was rigged, it's time to focus to make sure that next time we have a system that can't be rigged."

**N-L:** What does your schedule look like now?

**AR:** The first two or three weeks after the election, it was even more hectic than before. This past week it's calmed down a little bit, but even an hour ago I got a call from the AP. It hasn't gone away. Next week I'm speaking in the Senate office building. Now what's happening is policymakers are taking an interest in it.

**N-L:** The Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003, which would require a paper record for all electronic votes, failed to pass in Congress. Why do you think this happened?

**AR:** It became a partisan issue for some unexplainable reason.

**N-L:** How do you feel about the future of your work?

**AR:** It's a matter of educating people in Congress that this should not be a part of it. I always try to be optimistic, but in this case we're going to need a policy change to make things successful — no paperless voting.

**N-L:** What's your immediate strategy?

**AR:** It's just to keep saying what I think about it and to keep raising awareness about the issue. There's very little else I can do other than that. I'm meeting my congressman [Ben Cardin] here to talk to him about that.

**N-L:** Do you think you'll always be considered the electronic voting guru?

**AR:** I think if we stop using paperless DREs [Direct Recording Electronics] then I'll fade out of the limelight, which will be perfectly fine.

**N-L:** What are your hopes for 2008?

**AR:** I think we've got to deal with 2006 first, and the next few months, we'll see how it's going to go. I think if we don't nail this down now, we run the risk of running into an election where we could have a major disaster where someone could manipulate the machines to win the election.

**N-L:** What do you say to people who say "nothing happened"?

**AR:** Nothing happened that we know about and that's the best we can ever say.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.AVIRUBIN.COM](http://WWW.AVIRUBIN.COM)

**Avi Rubin, expert on electronic voting, comments on the recent election.**

## Pell Grants suffer federal cutbacks

Changes in student aid requirements to affect tens of thousands

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

tion will allow for reevaluations of student eligibility for federal aid based upon updated state tax information, which would vary from state to state.

Currently, the federal formula used to determine Pell Grant eligibility factors in family income, size and tax burden, among other aspects of the family's financial status.

According to current procedure, a family's tax burden is decided based on the state tax table from 1988, compiled by the Internal Revenue Service.

Under the new legislation, a recalculation of state tax tables will occur that would remove up to 90,000 students from the Pell Grant pool.

Congress had stalled the implementation of updated tables last year in order to allow time for an investigation into the possible impact on federal grantees, but the proposal passed before such an investigation took place, drawing criticism from higher education advocates.

However, Frishberg commented that it was difficult to foresee the exact impact the changes will have on Hopkins students who receive the Pell Grant.

After the University tried modeling possible changes in federal aid last year, there appeared to be more subsequent decreases in student aid than increases, according to Frishberg.

"Our estimates were that the amount of aid would change about \$200 for each recipient," Frishberg said. "But we don't know."

Maggie McIntosh, associate for federal relations at Hopkins, added that the legislation is part of a wide-

spread cut in federal resources for higher education, including an \$8.2 million reduction in work-study programs.

"There were several funding levels included in higher education that did receive an across-the-board cut," McIntosh said, adding that several fellowships for graduate students were also reduced as a result of the legislation.

Despite the dip in federal funding, Frishberg said that affected Hopkins students may also see an increase in need-based aid from the University.

"It's terrible that the government decided to do this," said Frishberg.

"But the good news is that Hopkins students shouldn't worry [about decreased aid]," Frishberg added. "If they're needy, what they're not getting from Pell Grants the University will provide in need-based funds."

According to Frishberg, administrators in the Hopkins Office of Financial Aid are currently in the midst of the budget development process, during which the Office will make budget requests for need-based financial aid.

These requests are calculated to reflect the expected amount of Pell Grants students will bring in.

"This year, that amount will go down, so our requests will go up," Frishberg said. "We'll be asking the deans for more money."

However, Frishberg anticipates that it will be difficult to completely balance out the federal cuts with Hopkins aid.

"Our goal would be to level out the changes," Frishberg said, "but whenever the University has to make up for something the government used to do, it raises costs for everybody."

In response to concerns that the financial burden on students will increase, McIntosh assured that the Hopkins Government, Community, and Public Affairs Office will continue lobbying Congress for increased student aid.

"I can very safely say that President Brody, along with our office, absolutely has student assistance and student aid as one of our top priorities," McIntosh said.

"We're going to fight hard to make sure that student financial aid is increased and that our Office of Financial Aid can have more flexibility to work on aid packages."

McIntosh added that Brody had recently written letters to congressmen concerning financial aid and student aid.

Amidst rising tuition costs, the legislated reduction in aid has angered both congressional Democrats and higher education advocates, who claim that the changes will hurt many students struggling to cope with tuition costs.

"The Republican Congress just threw students who need Pell Grants to afford a college education out into the cold," Sen. Jon S. Corzine, D-N.J., said in a statement.

Republican leaders, however, say that the changes could save \$300 million for the \$12.4 billion Pell Grant program, and could allow Congress to raise the maximum grant sooner.

According to Swarthout, student advocates and higher education officials have been escalating lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. to combat the legislation.

"The outrage about this has been that Congress has not made a significant commitment to making higher education more affordable," Swarthout said.

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## 2004 MILTON S. EISENHOWER SYMPOSIUM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

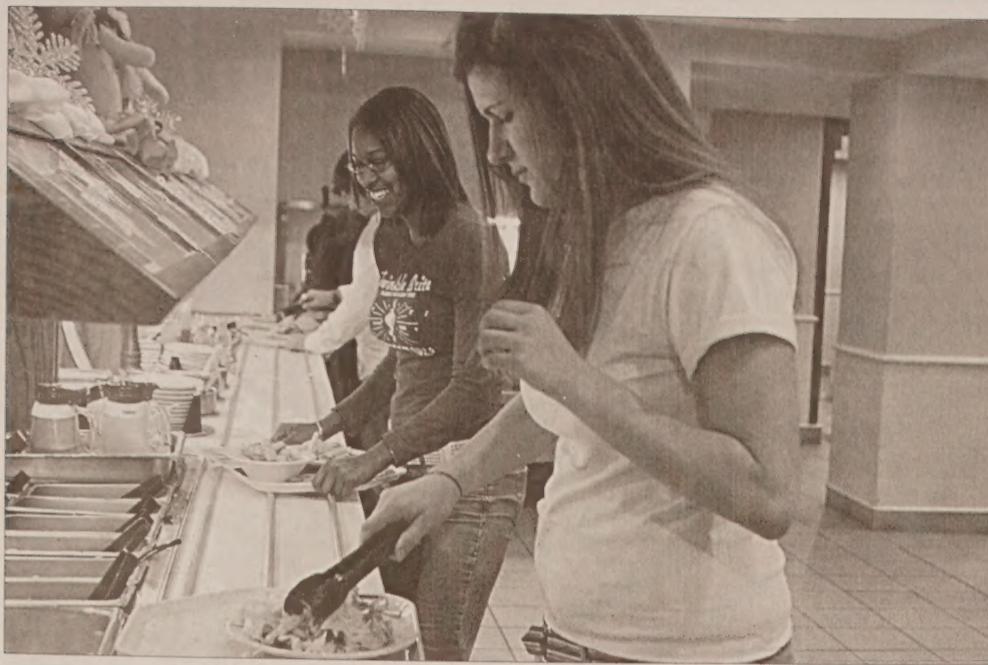
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AUTHOR, HISTORIAN,  
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8:00 PM, SHRIVER HALL





Students eat at the Sodexho-service Wolman Hall, one of the campus dining halls currently being assessed.

## JHU begins review of Sodexho

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1**  
up to Sodexho or one of their competitors. The process will be open to any competition that would like to respond and meets our requirements."

"In the request of proposal, they'll put out a dozen or so pages of what they're asking for in terms of dining services. I think that they're very open with the process," Brooks said of the committee.

"We don't know exactly what will be in the proposal, and it is too early to speculate about contract renewal. From my experience, speculation means nothing," Brookssaid. "Sometimes you don't know until the final day when they make the announcement."

Despite the fact that it's too early for any speculation as to whom Hopkins will select as the University's food provider when the current contract expires, Furhman said that campus dining services are continuously seeking program improvement.

"We are always actively working toward improvement. Our program is not where we want it to be. My goal is to make our food service program one of the best in the country," Furhman said.

Furhman noted that changes that have been implemented within the past year include an expanded Bag-It program, longer hours at both MegaBytes and the Depot, and the fresh fruit bar in Terrace.

Furhman has visited or will be visiting a number of universities, including Dartmouth, Bowdoin, Harvard, MIT, Washington University, University of Chicago and Duke in order to examine their dining services.

"These schools were selected by looking at the number of dining halls per student on meal plans, meal plans,

credibility of dining staff, organization, structure, menus and facilities," Furhman said.

Furhman noted that each of these schools are able to boast of innovative dining plans that work well with the size of their student population. "All of this planning is sort of a prelude to the contract process," Furhman said.

Despite not knowing whether they will maintain the contract with Hopkins, Brooks spoke on behalf of Sodexho's relationship with Hopkins.

"I think it's gone well. I think the key to our success is the constant communication, not only with Dave Furhman but also students," Brooks said.

Brooks noted that the use of comment cards, as well as pizza dinners for floors of residential halls and luncheon meetings, have been insightful as to obtaining student feedback.

Furhman agreed. "Students will play an active role in what contractor

we have on campus," he said.

Senior Christine Park noted the differences in the dining services since her freshman year. "I think they have made a lot of good changes," Park said.

Despite changes, many students continue to complain about Sodexho services. Freshman Emily Russo noted that complaints are common among students.

"More variety would be helpful with the menu, because when you try to eat healthfully at one of the dining halls you end up eating the same things over and over again," Russo said.

"The program is getting better each year because we learn what students want," said Brooks.

Sodexho food services cover dining programs at Terrace, Wolman, Levering, the Depot, MegaBytes and Jazzman's Café. All other on-campus dining facilities are run by independent organizations.

The program is getting better each year because we learn what students want.

— DAVID FURHMAN,  
DIRECTOR OF HOPKINS  
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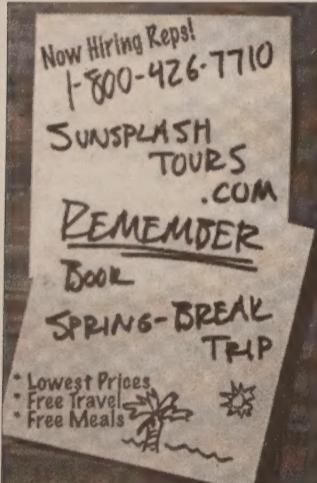
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# Congress may expand access to student records

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1**

Some students, such as junior Loandra Torres, are confident that the information will stay private, and also see the benefits of such a program.

"I don't see how they could misuse the information," said Torres. "I think it's a fine idea, because transfers won't look like people dropped off the face of the earth, they will be recorded as having finished college."

Even though the NCES has stated that they will not share their findings with any other organization, there are still those who worry about the security risks involved in the proposed system.

"It seems unlikely that this database would be used strictly for statistical purposes," said Blake Trettien, co-president of the Hopkins American Civil Liberties Union.

"It is not inconceivable that the government could use this information to identify every person who has studied microbiology," Trettien added, "and then cross reference this to immigration records, in hopes of identifying possible terrorists."

"I find this move to be a bit suspicious," said Emilie Adams, vice president of institutional relations for Hopkins ACLU.

Adams added, "While the aim of higher accountability in our education system is a respectable one, doing so at the expense of an individual student's privacy is not an acceptable trade-off."

For Hopkins administrators, privacy is not the only issue.

Paula Burger, vice dean of undergraduate education, said that one of her main concerns is that this is an "unfunded mandate," which will only increase the workload of institutions without reimbursing them.

Burger added that she thinks the government is "assuming a burden that will turn out to be unmanageable and it will lead to enormous bureaucracy."

"I see that this effort to gather information may be motivated by accountability but it is misguided as to how it can be effective," Burger said, "because gross generalizations do not lead to intelligent conclusions that show how an institution is doing."

She added that as the government tries to get this passed in Congress,

many administrators, including her, will be questioning the necessity and value of the proposal.

Currently, the federal government only has records that show how many students enter and graduate from the same school. Those who leave the college at which they started, and earn a degree from another institution, are recorded in the database as dropouts, not transfer students.

The Education Department says that with this new "unit record" system, the undergraduate retention,

transfer and graduation rates would be more precise, allowing the government to better evaluate the strength of universities.

For some time, all but nine state departments have been keeping "unit records" on students who go to school in their state. However, for the most part only undergraduates at public institutions are counted. Only eight states record from both public and private schools', and even then, the only private colleges considered are those that are not-for-profit.

## StuCo senior officers plagued by infighting

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1**

event. He said that because Groden-Thomas signed the event's documentation he could no longer be implicated in any violation.

Drolet added that he has spoken to Associate Dean of Student Life Dorothy Sheppard and Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell, and said that he is seeking disciplinary action against Patel for what he called slander and character defamation.

Four of the other five officers said that they felt Patel's claims were unfounded and that the vice president never acted inappropriately.

Because Patel collected a sufficient number of signatures, a vote of the senior class will be held next semester to determine whether Drolet will remain on StuCo, Long said.

Instead of taking the same action against Patel, council members will attempt an alteration of the procedure through which representatives are removed from office. A school-wide vote will determine whether or not a separate amendment, recently approved for referendum by StuCo, will be ratified to change this procedure and allow the Council to handle impeachments internally.

If the amendment passes, senior council members may seek to im-

peach Patel at a later date.

Long said that he fears that the dispute may inhibit StuCo's ability to perform appropriately.

He added, "Everything this class does reflects upon the rest of StuCo. I don't want them to look like a bunch of squabbling kindergartners."

Drolet said that he believes the situation will resolve itself without his removal from office.

"I think that Patel will probably recognize the error of her ways, issue an apology to me, and realize that the most effective senior class council is without her as a leader, given her past record," Drolet said.

He commented that he fears Patel will attempt to have other senior members of StuCo recalled as well.

Patel offered a different solution. "Ideally, for the class' sake, Brian and I should both be put up for recall and the senior class, which voted on its council, should decide who it still wants to represent it," she said.

Both maintained that they hope to get StuCo up and running again as soon as possible.

However, Long was not as optimistic, saying, "I wanted to see an internal solution to this conflict. But given the current situation, it doesn't look good for StuCo."

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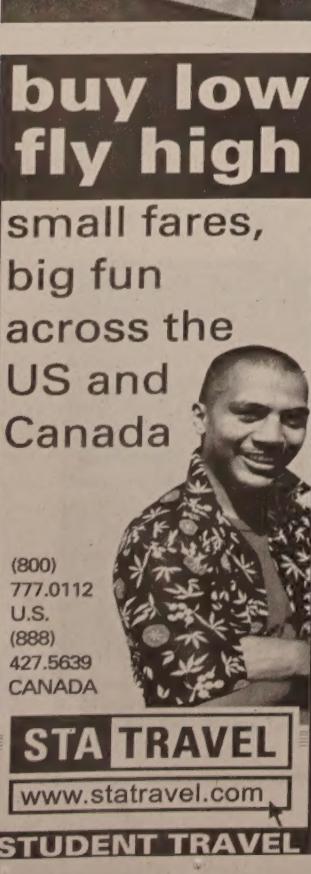
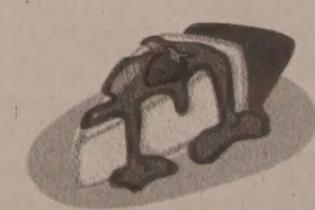
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## NEWS

## AROUND THE WORLD

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Supreme Court hears medical marijuana case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court questioned whether state medical marijuana laws might be abused by people who aren't really sick as it debated on Monday whether the federal government can prosecute patients who smoke pot on doctors' orders.

The stakes are high on both the government level — 11 states have passed medical marijuana laws since 1996 — and the personal.

In the courtroom watching the argument was Angel Raich, an Oakland, Calif., mother of two who said she tried dozens of prescription medicines to ease the pain of a brain tumor and other illnesses before she turned to marijuana. She and another ill woman, Diane Monson, filed a lawsuit to protect their access to the drug after federal agents confiscated marijuana plants from Monson's yard.

Their attorney, Randy Barnett of Boston, told the justices that his clients are law-abiding citizens who need marijuana to survive. Marijuana may have some negative side effects, he said, but seriously sick people are willing to take the chance because the drug helps them more than traditional medicines.

The justices refused three years ago to protect distributors of medical marijuana from federal anti-drug charges. They are confronting a more personal issue this time — the power of federal agents to go after sick people who use homegrown cannabis with their doctors' permission and their states' approval.

A defeat might undermine laws passed by California and 10 other states and discourage other states from approving their own. A loss for the government, on the other hand, could jeopardize federal oversight of illegal drugs and raise questions in other areas such as product safety and environmental activities.

— Gina Holland  
The Associated Press

## Colombian official retracts claim that rebels sought to assassinate Bush

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's government on Monday backpedaled on a claim made by the defense minister that Marxist rebels wanted to assassinate President Bush during a recent state visit.

Defense Minister Jorge Uribe told reporters Friday that informants said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, instructed followers to "assassinate President Bush" during his visit in the seaside city of Cartagena Nov. 22, where he met with President Alvaro Uribe.

The defense minister, who is no relation to the president, did not say where the information came from, and there was no indication Bush's life was ever in any danger. He was protected by 15,000 Colombian troops and police, U.S. troops and Secret Service agents during a brief visit to Colombia.

Interior and Justice Minister Sabas Pretelt played down the comments Monday, saying he had no information about any assassination plot against Bush.

"There is nothing specific," Pretelt told The Associated Press. "What these terrorists organizations normally try to do is disturb the visits of any head of state ... like President Bush. But we took all [security] measures, and there was no disturbance."

The defense minister told reporters Monday he did not want to elaborate on his earlier comments, but his spokeswoman indicated he had either misspoken or been misunderstood.

"The FARC wanted to make a noise because of Bush's visit, that's to say to place a bomb in Cartagena or something like that," spokeswoman Daisy Canon told the AP. "But a structured plan, with details to attack Bush — that we don't know about."

The FARC has not commented on Uribe's statement.

Carlos Lozano, managing editor of Colombia's Communist Party newspaper, who has had contact with rebel leaders in the past, dismissed the claim as outlandish.

— Andrew Selsky  
The Associated Press

## Environmental group gives Chesapeake Bay a 'D' grade on report card

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — The program to save the Chesapeake Bay "is fast becoming a national disgrace," and there was no overall improvement in the health of the bay over the last year, the president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation said Monday.

"Existing environmental laws are simply not being enforced," William C. Baker said. "Only in Maryland has there been a shred of progress."

The organization gave the bay a grade of 27 out of 100 — which it considers a D — on the report card it issues each year examining progress on solving pollution, habitat and fisheries problems. While there was movement up or down on various components of the report card, the overall score was the same as last year.

Rockfish stocks remain high and forest buffers and wetlands are holding their own, according to the report. There was some improvement in water quality, but it continued to get an F along with dissolved oxygen levels and pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus.

Baker gave Maryland credit for the law passed by the 2004 General Assembly adding a \$2.50 monthly fee to sewer bills to pay for a \$1 billion program to improve sewage treatment plants.

He praised the bipartisan efforts of Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich, who proposed the fee, and the Democratic legislative leaders who worked with the governor to get it through the General Assembly.

— Tom Stuckey  
The Associated Press



DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of Ukraine's opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko demonstrate in Kiev following the decision to review the nation's disputed presidential election.

## Parts of eastern Ukraine seek autonomy

BY YURAS KARMAU  
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — Andriy Reshetnyak tied a Russian flag to the Ukrainian one, joining thousands of demonstrators backing a referendum on autonomy for their eastern province on Donetsk's central Lenin Square on Monday.

"I support a split," said Reshetnyak, a coal miner and a member of the Ukrainian opposition's refusal to acknowledge what the Central Election Commission says was Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych's victory over Western-leaning Viktor Yushchenko in the Nov. 21 presidential runoff.

Donetsk and other heavily industrialized provinces in Ukraine's east have been the main power base for native son Yanukovych, and the opposition push for annulling the vote on fraud charges has deepened old divisions that now threaten to break up the nation of 48 million.

The Donetsk regional legislature has scheduled a referendum for Sunday to ask voters whether they support making the province a republic — giving it a measure of self-

rule — and other eastern provinces said they could join the move to form a "southeastern autonomous republic."

For Reshetnyak and many of his comrades, "autonomy" simply means a de facto merger with Russia. "If we have to choose between the aggressor United States and Russia, I'm choosing Russia," he said.

It's a choice grounded in Ukraine's turbulent history as the subject of deals and disputes between powerful neighbors. Russia has dominated its eastern portion since the 18th century, when what is now Ukraine was divided between Poland and Russia. Most of modern-day Ukraine was then united by Russia in 1793, when Poland was partitioned.

Despite the much-trumpeted end of the Cold War, Ukraine's 21st century election has turned into a battleground between the United States and other Western nations, which have refused to accept the official vote results, and Russia, whose President Vladimir Putin staunchly backed Yanukovych.

With the Supreme Court taking up Yushchenko's appeal challenging the validity of the vote in Donetsk and other eastern provinces where official results indicated

nearly 100 percent of ballots were cast for Yanukovych, the east struck back with the referendum threat.

"Setting up a republic would protect us from the orange plague which comes creeping into our city," Donetsk Mayor Oleksandr Lukyanchenko said, referring to the color associated with Yushchenko's campaign.

Yanukovych's campaign has cast the industrialized east as a donor for the agricultural west — a theory that has had a deep impact on his electorate. Eastern Ukraine is more heavily populated than the west, and many of its citizens — coal miners and factory workers — see themselves as holding the country together economically.

Russia has pursued similar tactics in other ex-Soviet republics in the 1990s, backing separatists in breakaway provinces in Georgia and Moldova. In Moscow, the liberal newspaper *Vremya Novostei* newspaper accused the Kremlin of "exporting separatism" among its neighbors.

In an oblique warning to Russia, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said that an attempt to redraw borders would violate agreements the nation has signed "with all neighbor countries."

## Ridge resigns from Homeland Security post

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, whose name became synonymous with color-coded terror alerts and tutorials about how to prepare for possible attack, resigned Tuesday, saying he was confident the United States is significantly safer than before the 2001 terrorist strikes.

Ridge, who has warned that the country may face increased terror risks around the holidays and the Jan. 20 presidential inauguration, said he will remain on the job through Feb. 1. He submitted his resignation to President Bush on Tuesday morning after attending a daily threat briefing with CIA and FBI officials.

As the nation's first chief of the new Department of Homeland Security, Ridge presided over a collection of 22 disparate federal agencies and 180,000 employees. He acknowledged he could not prove the enormously expensive and complex security measures put in place since 2001 have foiled any terrorist attacks inside the United States but said he was certain America was safer.

"I am confident that the terrorists are aware that from the curb to the cockpit we've got additional security measures that didn't exist a couple years ago, that from port to port we do things differently with maritime security," Ridge said. "I am confident they know the borders are more secure. I am confident they know we have developed and are sharing information with state and local law enforcement."

Ridge, a former Pennsylvania governor, said terrorists know that because of the changes, "America is a different place to work and operate in."

Among those mentioned as possible candidates to replace Ridge are Bernard Kerik, the former New York City police commissioner who helped rebuild Iraq's police force; former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Albaugh; Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt and White House homeland security adviser

Fran Townsend.

At a news conference, Ridge defended the department's efforts to warn the public of possible terror threats, saying it preferred to disclose more information than some officials believed was wise.

"That's something we take pride in," Ridge said. "America is prepared to deal with the reality of the post-9/11 world. It's in our best long-term interest to share more information about the threat to America rather than less."

Ridge, who is married with two children, said that for the future he intends to "raise some family and personal matters to a higher priority," including attending his son's rugby games.

In an e-mail circulated to Homeland Security officials, Ridge praised the department as "an extraordinary organization that each day contributes to keeping America safe and free."

In October 2001, Ridge became the nation's first White House homeland security adviser, leading a massive undertaking to rethink all aspects of security within the U.S. borders in the wake of the terror attacks of September 2001.

Congress subsequently passed legislation establishing the Homeland Security Department. Ridge became the department's first secretary in January 2003.

He has presided over six national "orange alerts" when the government boosted

security out of concern that an attack may be coming. An attack in the United States never happened on his watch.

Ridge has said, however, that he believes an assault by the al-Qaida terrorist network was averted during the December and January holiday period, when intelligence reports indicated terrorists might be targeting international flights to attack the United States. Passenger manifests were scrutinized and flights were canceled.

Yet Ridge, a politician by nature, fought criticism leading up to the election from those who said he was using terror warnings to boost support for Bush. Ridge repeatedly said: "We don't do politics in the Department of Homeland Security."

## Iran agreement holds off U.N. action

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran confirmed Monday it had accepted — albeit reluctantly — a face-saving solution to a uranium enrichment dispute that could have escalated into referral of Iran to the U.N. Security Council for sanctions.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami called the agreement a "successful step," state radio reported later Monday. But the U.S. warned the Western diplomats who negotiated the deal that Iran could not be trusted.

"Recognition of our right for enjoying peaceful nuclear technology is a successful step for Iran," state radio quoted Khatami as saying.

He called Iran's determination to seek peaceful nuclear technology "definite" and said "our victory is due to further negotiations," according to state radio. It was unclear if he was referring to further negotiations about uranium enrichment — which could bring criticism that Iran was trying to maintain a clandestine weapons program — or incentives from Western countries for coming to the agreement.

Earlier, spokesman Abdollah

Ramezanladeh told reporters Iran agreed not to test 20 centrifuges it had been insisting on using for research "for now," as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities that can yield weapons-grade uranium.

But a U.S. official told Western diplomats in Vienna who negotiated the deal that Tehran could not be trusted and the U.S. may still refer Iran to the Security Council.

Unanswered questions about Iran's program "[make] it clear that the IAEA cannot ... offer the necessary assurances that Iran is not attempting to produce nuclear material for weapons," said U.S. chief delegate Jackie Sanders to the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Ramezanladeh said that while the 20 centrifuges would not be used, they would not be sealed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog. At the IAEA in Vienna, diplomats also had said the agreement stipulated that the 20 centrifuges would not be placed under IAEA seals but monitored by cameras.

With that issue settled, Iran accepted the latest European draft of a resolution that commits Tehran to a total suspension of uranium enrichment and all related activities. Centrifuges can spin gas into enriched uranium, which can then be used to produce energy or bombs.

Iran says its nuclear program is purely peaceful, while the United States accuses it of seeking nuclear weapons and is pressing the United Nations to take firm action.

The IAEA board adopted the resolution later Monday. The board could have asked for Security Council involvement if Iran had not accepted a total suspension that included the 20 research centrifuges.

Though it was unclear why Iran would risk scuttling the resolution, officials here have faced pressure from Iranian hard-liners over what some see as caving in to international demands.

"The draft resolution presented to the International Atomic Energy Agency is an appropriate resolution although it doesn't meet all our objectives," Ramezanladeh said.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hossein Mousavian, was more positive, telling state-run television from Vienna that "all the fundamental and basic demands of Iran have been inserted in the EU proposed draft." He said Iran's contention that suspension of its enrichment activities was voluntary had been acknowledged in the draft.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

## EDITORIAL

# Senior president must resign

It's now December and the StuCo senior class needs to get things done. Senior week needs to be planned, a graduation speaker needs to be chosen and council members have to do their individual jobs. As it stands, the senior council cannot move forward with their responsibilities without senior class President Payal Patel resigning her post.

This is no easy request. In past years, StuCo has fallen victim to infighting and personal vendettas. Just this year, we've seen resignations and had to wait months for a StuCo president to be installed. A reshuffling at the highest levels of student leadership is a tall order for a council that needs to avoid controversy and perform its duties effectively. But so vital are the duties of the senior council and so far has the situation devolved, that Patel can no longer serve as the senior class president.

This drama began early in the school year, when other members of the senior council claimed that Patel was unwilling to call upon them to help plan Disorientation or choose a graduation speaker, even after they requested to be included. Members of the senior council feel that Patel has consistently failed to exhibit the traits of a good leader, fostering a culture lacking trust and communication.

According to the senior council, Patel wrongly assumed that they did not want to be involved in certain decisions. Whether this assumption was correct or not is immaterial; Patel should have involved members from the start. It is a 'class president's responsibility to involve their class council in important matters. Evading teamwork should have been a last resort.

If Patel had felt that members were unwilling to uphold their responsibility to serve the senior class, she should have sought resolution with those members and with StuCo advisor Jeffrey Groden-Tho-

mas. Cutting them out of the loop is not just poor manners, it's poor leadership. Patel has no right to deny senior council members of the responsibilities we have elected them to bear.

Members of senior council approached Patel to address her leadership, and although she agreed to run a more inclusive ship, many claim that she never followed those pledges with action. Frustrated, they privately called for her resignation. Five members of council drafted a list of grievances that they showed to Patel, saying that they would present them to a closed-door session of StuCo if she did not tender her resignation. Her alleged response: "I will never resign." For the good of the senior class, we hope she will reconsider.

The members wanted this matter to be dealt with in-house, tactfully, without dragging Patel's name through the mud. But her inaction has forced them to make the matter public. In what is clearly a show of petty retaliation, Patel has submitted a petition impeaching senior class Vice President Brian Drolet, loaded with empty charges and straw-grasping, aimed at discrediting Drolet rather than solving any of the senior class' problems.

This desperate and somewhat false attempt by Patel to undercut her peer member, one whom every member of the senior council publicly stands behind, has shown Patel's intention to put herself before StuCo and the student body she was elected to serve. By lashing out, Patel has clinched her own departure, because she will surely face eventual impeachment if she elects not to resign.

We sincerely hope that she will save StuCo and the student body the trouble, so that the senior council can focus on doing their jobs, rather than infighting. We ask Patel to rescind her petition against Drolet and make the difficult yet mature decision to resign.

# Blue light not so special

Every freshman living on the quad knows that the blue-light security phones, which connect students to a security officer at the touch of a button, are their best ally in the event of an emergency. Or at least in principle they are.

According to Bob Geldmacher, operations manager for JHU Telecom services, the department that handles all communications on campus, the emergency phones have always had problems and malfunctions. Unfortunately, the University has not done anything about them until now.

With recent hikes in security on and around campus, the security phones have been sorely overlooked. A system that is in constant disrepair, or that malfunctions every time it rains, is completely useless; the entire purpose of blue-light phones is to provide a trustworthy and unfailingly reliable emergency resource. Increasing their number from 28 to 31, as the University did this past year, does no good if the units themselves consistently malfunction. Students walk around campus assuming those phones are in working order, when in reality the odds are

pretty high that any given phone is defective.

The problem, ironically, is a breakdown in communication. The fact that defective phones were left unfixed because of a communication failure between Telecom and Hopkins Security suggests a problem deeper than faulty phone lines. While the joint effort to revamp the security phone system is commendable and absolutely necessary, efforts to improve communication between the different services that ensure student safety, including the security department, Telecom, and facilities management, must go hand-in-hand.

The attempt to coincide the security phone overhaul with the installation of phones in the San Martin Drive area is well-intended and reasonable, but the University should expedite these crucial improvements. If we, as students, depend on the emergency phones to protect us, it is unacceptable that they haven't been replaced, especially since it has been clear for so long that their malfunctions go beyond regular daily maintenance. It is time to fix this problem and rebuild the campus breakdown in communication.

# Explicit exam policies, please

As if the difficulty of exams weren't enough, students this year will be faced with some unnecessary and frustrating scheduling problems they have encountered in years past. Despite the administration's efforts, exams will likely be given during reading period, or worse, during the last week of classes. Some professors assign papers in lieu of exams but set the due dates prior to the exam period. The current exam schedule also allows for two finals to be scheduled at the same time. This wouldn't be a problem if some maverick professors did not ignore designated make-up times.

The CUE report called upon the University to address this issue, stating that "regardless of the particular configuration of the class week, it is vitally important that, within the semester calendar, the reading and scheduled examination periods be respected." The University responded, reiterating its policy on exams in a letter sent out to faculty that contained guidelines for professors to follow for reading and exam periods. These guidelines have partially addressed the issue, as more professors are respecting the intention of reading period by withholding examinations on those days. However, the

University must do more to guarantee that the Commission's recommendation is implemented.

Students do not have easy access to these guidelines if they have questions about when an exam can or cannot be scheduled or when an assignment can or cannot be due. A higher standard could be ensured if both students and faculty were aware of these guidelines. With greater transparency comes consistency and respect for the guidelines. Unfortunately for students and faculty, these guidelines are not posted anywhere online, nor are they listed in the student handbook. One need only check out the Web sites of our peer institutions to see their exam policies proudly posted.

In a letter sent to faculty members, then interim Dean Andrew Douglas and Dean Daniel Weiss stressed "these procedures are prescribed in the interest of fairness to students and an orderly and manageable final examination schedule." However, there is a gap between the ideal of fairness and its actual application. Professors are still scheduling finals and make-ups at their own discretion. The University needs to publicize an explicit policy if they actually want to ensure its fairness.

## WILLIAM PARSCHALK



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Column whitewashes  
Arafat's history

In his Nov. 18 column, Michael Huerta castigates U.S. leaders for failing to show adequate "heartbreak and sympathy" toward the Palestinian people on the passing of Yasser Arafat. He claims that U.S. statements "welcoming" the Palestinian leader's death as an opportunity for peace "make the United States... appear insensitive and opportunistic."

Yet Yasser Arafat was no ordinary leader. Much like Osama bin Laden and the Taliban's Mullah Omar, Arafat funded, instigated, and directed vicious acts of terror against innocent civilians.

Arafat directly caused more Jewish deaths than any single leader since Adolf Hitler. Countless Arabs and foreign nationals also died as a result of actions carried out under his command, which ranged from school massacres to airplane hijackings. A recent *Chicago Sun-Times* editorial stated that "the attacks of Sept. 11 were no doubt inspired by [Arafat's] efforts."

Huerta fails to mention that Arafat betrayed his own people. He threw away numerous chances for a settlement with Israel that would have allowed the Palestinian people to live in peace.

As thousands of Palestinians languished in refugee camps, he embezzled billions of dollars in international aid money, using these funds both to enrich himself and to support terrorist organizations such as the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades (the military wing of his Fatah

movement).

No, the United States should not regret Arafat's death. American sympathy should not be wasted on a man who, like Stalin and Hitler, has now taken his rightful place in the dustbin of history.

David Weinstein, KSAS, '08

Intersession column  
needs clarification

I'd like to respond to Francesca Hansen's strongly worded, well written Op-Ed on Intersession, "New intersession a cheap compromise for students." Allow me to offer a few thoughts to help students better understand the choices we made:

1) While fall tuition covers Intersession theoretically, there is no money sitting around to pay instructors for Intersession courses. This explains why Intersession offerings in the past have been spotty at best.

These additional resources represent a major investment in Intersession, not programming on the cheap. In fact, you are getting more for your money, not less.

2) Our faculty do not believe that a

student can legitimately absorb a semester's worth of material in three weeks or less. Even summer programs have five weeks of instruction, and that is pushing it.

3) It will take time, and many other related initiatives, to change the notion that we should be doing all we can to lessen the "burden" of a Hopkins education. I see your education as an opportunity for intellectual growth and genuine exploration, not a burden to be lessened.

4) The move toward S/U credit is consistent with the desire to offer exploration without competition. Competition can be healthy, but I do not see why competition must be omnipresent for an experience to be worthwhile.

It's healthy and necessary to have debates like these, especially as we try new ways to improve undergraduate education. I am intensely curious about how students will react to the changes we have made, and I'd like to hear from anyone who'd like to write after Intersession (*jbader@jhu.edu*). While I respect Francesca's concerns, I hope that student experiences with the new Intersession prove her wrong.

John Bader,  
Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Advising

## LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to *News.Letter@jhu.edu* for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and cannot be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Letters credited only to organizations will not be printed. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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ap.

# OPINIONS

## Senior class crisis reeks of political games

**A** few weeks ago, members of the Senior Class Council submitted a list of grievances to Payal Patel asking her to resign her office. After this request for her resignation, she collected signatures and submitted a petition to the BoE to recall Senior Class Vice President Brian Drolet.

To be fair, Patel commented that the petition was in no way related to the list of grievances. She stated that the petition was in response to the event at the Mansion and not political retaliation to the request for her resignation. She pointed to the fact that "the petition was started the day after [the Mansion] event occurred ... two or three weeks after I received the list of grievances." Thus, it is her claim that her attempt to recall Drolet was not a matter of retaliation, but out of legitimate concern of his actions and the possible harm that they could bring to the senior class.

Drolet disagrees. He said, "Payal's petition is clearly a vindictive attack in response to a decision by our class to ask for her resignation due to her poor leadership." Continuing he commented that, "It is unfortunate that Payal has taken the route of vengeance rather than the route of humility... [The petition] is full of libelous untruths."

As I conducted my investigation, evidence mounted that supported Brian's claim. Senior Senator Stephen Popowski said "Payal was presented with our list of grievances the Tuesday before the Mansion event."

Senior David McGovern, who signed her petition remarked to me that at the time of their signing they

were told that a reason to impeach Drolet was that he "tried to remove Patel; even though she didn't do anything to merit that."

Although Patel herself did not hand deliver the petition to this student, the statement implicates the petition as an act of political retaliation.

Regardless of the motivations behind the petition, the reasons listed on the petition to impeach Drolet are antithetical to the interests of the senior class. The petition attacks Drolet for his planning of the Senior Night at the Mansion. It claims that he broke administration rules by planning the event and that the class incurred a loss of \$3,000 from "an intentional \$5 loss per ticket." Furthermore, the petition claims that "Drolet deliberately led the effort to make social event plans for the class without informing all officers." Finally, the petition asserts that Drolet has shirked class duties and planned the social event without informing all other class officers.

To begin, any senior who was at this event knows that it was the best social event that our class has ever sponsored. In the words of Senior Senator Justin Belisario, "That was the best \$3,000 we ever spent." The money came from a class fund specifically earmarked for social events and was spent to subsidize the cost of tickets for seniors to attend the event. Of course there was a loss of \$3,000 — the event was not a fund-raiser. Unused money from the social events fund is lost at the end of the year, so it makes sense that the class would

We need unselfish leadership not afraid to work for our interests.

spend it on subsidizing social events.

Furthermore, the claim that Drolet deliberately broke administration rules is murky. Patel says, "Dean Boswell and I had made it clear to the class council that the way this event was to be run was clearly in violation of administrative policy."

Drolet counters that "The social event was submitted to [Director of Student Involvement Jeff Groden-Thomas] for approval." Jeff Groden-Thomas backed up Drolet's story and said that approval for the event was properly sought and given. He continued to explain that any parts of the event that were against policy were the fault of the Mansion's misinterpretation of the contract that was signed.

Groden-Thomas stated that "the class council did nothing wrong." Therefore, as Drolet did consult with Groden-Thomas prior to the event to ensure it was in line with administration policy, it seems difficult to accuse him of deliberately breaking administration policy.

To address whether or not all officers had been informed of the event, I met with and questioned each member of the senior class council. Besides unanimously praising Drolet's leadership and emphasizing that his impeachment would be a blow to the class, all told me that they were aware of the event and were engaged in planning its specifics. Additionally, Patel admitted that she was aware of the event. Obviously, the claim that the other class officers were not informed is a farce.

Given these findings, I call on the class council and the president to rescind their calls for various resignations and address the grievances of both sides in an honest and forthright manner. If the leadership of the council cannot reconcile their differences, then someone will have to go. However, given his dedication to the class, and the backing of all of his fellow class council officers, the person to leave should not be Brian Drolet.

The Class of 2005 needs Drolet and the rest of our officers to work for our benefit so that we can have a great Senior Week and graduation. We need unselfish leadership not afraid to work for our interests. Political retaliation and petitions for recall are not in our interests.

—Eric Wolkoff is a senior political science major.

## Cash-for-credits sells out students

**T**he pursuit of intellectual enrichment is under attack. Hopkins administrators are considering the implementation of a new policy that would obligate students to pay about \$1,500 in order to receive credit for summer internships. The change may extend to independent study and research as well.

At this week's Student Council meeting, Dean Burger claimed that the Administration only wants to boost the academic nature of the work students do outside of the classroom.

She is correct to encourage reform of the system — which seems imminent, if not necessary, at this point — but to suggest required payment for free work is nothing short of reprehensible.

Tuesday night, Dean Burger likened paying for summer internship credit to the costs of summer classes. She stated that part of each student's tuition pays for credit, and that she had not yet been informed of a concrete reason why students do not pay for summer internships. I couldn't help but wonder how she mistook unpaid work and classroom time with a professor as equivalent.

This is not to say that reform of Hopkins' summer internship policy is unwarranted. On the contrary, if increasing academic credibility would prevent the University from demanding payment for summer internships, then I certainly welcome reorganization. But the looming threat of payment for credit should be dismissed immediately. Students will inevitably be much less likely to

participate in internships, and, as a research university, Hopkins should encourage this type of activity, not deter it.

Far worse is the inequity this policy would create between students who can afford to pay for credit and those who cannot. Summer internships are already reserved for those who have the financial capability to forego a full-time summer job, but to ask students to pay to do free work is simply ridiculous. The financial elitism this proposed policy would promote is a sign that the Administration is perhaps a bit more negligent than some of us might have thought.

Administrators must recognize that the willingness of some students to undertake such a responsibility has shifted from noble

to virtually necessary in the shrinking job market. Many students, especially those focusing on the humanities and social sciences, are essentially required to be willing to work for nothing if they hope to succeed after college.

Admittedly, the situation is complicated by the nebulous, somewhat questionable nature of the relationship between internships and any form of credit, whether academic or otherwise. This stems from the fact that interns, for the most part, are a source of

free labor. As a result, the rules governing credit for such work have never been clear, and certain students have given up a regular salary for three months in exchange for the implied promise of three credits. Reform is now called for, mostly for this reason.

The unfortunate reality is most internships just aren't that great. Advisors encourage students to seek internships that provide a genuine learning experience, but this is rarely possible. Though internships are not necessarily academic, they provide work experience that is equally important for recent graduates. To inhibit internship participation is to effectively hinder students' potential to get a job after school.

The key change lies in the opportunity to distinguish the difference between work deserving of academic credit and work deserving of a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade. Students already must seek a faculty sponsor for credit and demonstrate the academic merit of their experiences, but all internships should receive a pass/fail mark at the absolute minimum. Still, if it is time to step up the requirements for internship credit, such a change should not discriminate against those who cannot meet an arbitrary, outrageous expense.

The University has quite a choice to make. I can only hope that the threat of this impending disaster is not realized. As a student who has held a summer internship position, and plans to do so again, I am saddened to find that the Administration is so out of touch with its students.

—Brendan Schreiber is a sophomore political science major.

**BRENDAN SCHREIBER**  
GUEST COLUMN

## Abolish death penalty for juveniles

**T**here is an emerging national consensus against executing juvenile offenders. The majority of states do not execute people for crimes committed at the age of 16 or 17, but 19 states still maintain their right to do so. Significant evidence shows that America's death penalty system is broken. To date, 117 people have been freed from death row because they were proven innocent. Executing juvenile offenders only adds to the immorality of America's flawed capital punishment system.

A total of 228 juvenile death sentences have been imposed since 1973. Seventy-two of these offenders are still on death row. These 72 are being held in 12 states. Texas, which houses America's most active death row, holds 40 percent of the juvenile offenders.

Of the other 156 sentences, 14 percent have resulted in an execution and 86 percent have been reversed or commuted. A 2003 ABC poll showed that only 21 percent of Americans favors the death penalty over life imprisonment for juvenile offenders.

In its 2004/5 term, the Supreme Court once again has the opportunity to ban juvenile executions permanently. This fall, the Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Roper v. Simmons*.

The case came to the Supreme Court on appeal after the Missouri Supreme Court found that juvenile executions constitute cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. The Court should use this case to ban the execution of juvenile offenders nationally.

The Court must consider the overwhelming national consensus against executing juvenile offenders. In the past

10 years, only three states — Texas, Virginia and Oklahoma — have executed juvenile offenders.

This is not a surprising statistic considering that those same three states claim 54 percent of the nation's executions in general since 1976. Including the 12 states that do not have a death penalty at all, there are 31 states that ban the execution of juvenile offenders. Of the 19 states that do have a juvenile death penalty, seven do not have juvenile offenders on death row.

These are compelling statistics. Compelling enough for Justice Stevens of the Supreme Court to write: "The practice of executing such offenders [under 18] is a relic of the past and is inconsistent with evolving standards of decency in a civilized society. We should put an end to this shameful practice" (dissenting in *Stanford v. California*).

"Evolving standards of decency" are extremely significant in regards to the execution of juvenile offenders. The Supreme Court uses evolving standards of decency as a method to determine what constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment" under the Eighth

Amendment. In *Coker v. Georgia* (1977), the Supreme Court said that evolving standards of decency should be measured by objective factors and that the most important objective factor is state legislation.

Thus, in *Atkins v. Virginia* (2002), the Court drew upon the fact that 30 states banned the execution of mentally retarded individuals. In *Atkins*, the Court held that executing mentally retarded people violates evolving standards of



WILLIAM PARSHACK/NEWS-LETTER

cency and, therefore, violates the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution.

At the least there is a consensus equal to that discovered in *Atkins* against executing juvenile offenders. The opposition of 31 states is a clear guide to the Court that standards of decency oppose imposing the death penalty against juvenile offenders.

The standards of decency are also rapidly evolving. Since 1993, eight states have made juvenile executions illegal.

It is time for the Court to follow Justice Stevens' lead and take a step in the direction of morality. America should be using the money needed to execute juveniles (contrary to popular belief, the death penalty is more expensive than life in prison) to stop heinous crimes from being committed in the future.

Execution is not the correct way to keep young people away from crime.

Better funding for schools, support for working single-mothers, and money for drug treatment are all solutions to juvenile crime. State-sponsored execution is not a solution.

—Morgan MacDonald is a senior political science major.

**MORGAN MACDONALD**  
RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES

and celebrate it out of habit, while the letter and spirit of its meaning are meaningless. The true nature of Thanksgiving's carefully orchestrated plot appears the next day, sometimes as early as 5:30 a.m.

That is when Black Friday's starting gun is fired, releasing tens of thousands of caged animals into the aisles of our nation's finer retailers. Estimates put last year's Black Friday national sales total at \$7.2 billion. Of this total, \$1.52 billion came from Wal-Mart alone. I guess people don't have time to consider the

Pilgrims' copious blessings when every billboard and newspaper says that Tickle-Me

Furby is available for \$29.98.

We really need to look at what has been going on for years already and see how all of our holidays, not even just the obvious ones, have been co-opted by consumerism and advertising. I'm sure no one really believes

that we just get two days off to be with our families when most of us are going to just do it again less than a month later. We need to

see our holidays for what they are: well-oiled entrepreneurial machines, some so powerful that even the resistant have fallen.

Europe won't fall into our commercial holiday trap, right? This year the UK spent 100 million GBP on Halloween, a holiday that was once explicitly celebrated by America. The grossly profitable industry of American tourism has brought about this cultural and commercial piggy-back ride. Said Sarah Howden of the Edinburgh News about Halloween,

"As with every trend, where the U.S. leads, the UK eventually follows."

And the UK has certainly followed, embracing all things marketable and opening up 18 franchises of the chain store Birthdays Halloween. But have they sacrificed tradition for commercialism? Said Geoff Sanderson, Birthdays marketing director, in the Oct. 30 edition of *The Scotsman*, "Edinburgh is steeped in tradition, history and all things ghostly and ghoulish, so

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

## Bush all talk in terror war

**S**itting about with his Stetson hat and his six-shooter, President Bush is the swaggering cowboy who is going to make us safe from the terrorists. Not content to "swat at flies," he's "smoked them out" of their Afghan caves, and "hunted them down" in the narrow alleys of Fallujah. Slowly but surely we're going to get all the terrorists "dead or alive" (not including Osama, of course, who W. is "not really that concerned about"). Yet, in spite of all the bluster and bravado, when it comes to truly protecting this country from another major terrorist attack, President Bush has failed to lead.

Last week the bipartisan intelligence reform bill was killed by House Republicans. Let us pause to reflect on what this means. The 9/11 Commission, the one group that comprehensively studied our government's failures in preventing the attacks, had recommended a set of reforms designed to ensure that a major attack did not again take place on U.S. soil.

After months of tortuous negotiations, a

**SANTOSH SAGAR**  
GUEST COLUMN

bill which incorporated most of these reforms was ready to be voted on. These measures enjoyed broad, bipartisan support in Congress, and would surely have passed by large margins in the House and Senate. However, when some House Republicans objected, Speaker Hastert killed the bill rather than let it be passed primarily with Democratic support. So much for the spirit of bipartisanship. So much for protecting us from terrorists.

And, yet, the conventional wisdom that lays the blame for the defeat of the bill on House Republicans is misguided. The truth of the matter is that it is President's failure to lead that has ultimately doomed this vital effort at reform.

In fact, when they were first introduced the administration made signs it would oppose many of its central features. After pressure from the Commissioners and the 9/11 families, the President made an about face (one might say a flip-flop), offering his timid support for the proposal. In the run-up to the vote on the bill, our "strong" and "steadfast" leader made barely a peep.

The great institutional advantage of the presidency is the ability to speak directly to all Americans. By bringing his agenda directly to the people, a president can create a groundswell of support which forces Congress to take action. When President Bush wanted his tax cuts passed he took every opportunity to publicly pressure Congress into passing them exactly as he wanted. Yet he has shown no such zeal on this measure which is so critical to protecting our nation.

If President Bush truly cared about enacting intelligence reform, we would see him at a press conference, with the 9/11 Commissioners and 9/11 widows at his back, demanding that Congress move forward on this legislation. We would see a primetime Oval Office address in which he chews out Speaker Hastert for putting partisan politics above the lives and security of ordinary Americans. We have not, and we will not, see this.

This is a bill the president never wanted, and he is all too happy to see it die. What is sad about this whole fiasco is that he does not have the courage to tell us as such and that he has no alternative plans for how to make us more secure here at home.

For all his talk about being a strong leader in a time of danger, President Bush has shown his true self. Perhaps finally people will begin to realize that canned photo-ops and trite catch phrases do not make a man strong or resolute. Perhaps they will begin to see that this is a cowboy with no clothes.

—Santosh Sagar is a senior international studies major.

## Modern holiday season honors the almighty dollar

**T**hanksgiving is a treasured American tradition, a holiday we Americans have celebrated for decades, a time when families from all over the nation come together to celebrate... what?

Nobody knows. People sit down at their tables and don't realize that they are celebrating the Pilgrims' 1621 harvest, which they shared with their savage brethren (whom they later dispatched, but that's another story all together). So when I pressed people for the origin of Thanksgiving, most looked at me like I had asked them for the origin of Secretary's Day, then collected themselves and offered their stock opinion of the modern interpretation of Thanksgiving.

"It's when we gather together as a family to enjoy and remember all of our blessings."

Okay, sure. That explanation encapsulates the intended spirit of the holiday. But do we really sit around and think about how blessed we are on Thanksgiving? About as much as we think about environmentalism on Arbor Day.

The truth is that Thanksgiving is the sneakiest of all major holidays in making its true intentions known. We all get together

and celebrate it out of habit, while the letter and spirit of its meaning are meaningless.

The true nature of Thanksgiving's carefully

orchestrated plot appears the next day, sometimes

as early as 5:30 a.m.

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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## New grant aims to increase diversity



MARK MEHLINGER/NEWS-Letter  
Professor Busch-Vischniac, Hopkins' first female engineering school dean, stepped down last year to teach.

BY ESTHER HWANG  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Dr. Ilene Busch-Vischniac received funding from the National Science Foundation giving her the opportunity to change the undergraduate program in mechanical engineering, making it more amenable to a diverse group of students. By increasing diversity, she hopes more women and under-represented minorities will involve themselves in mechanical engineering or engineering in general.

Johns Hopkins is one of the eight universities that have received funding to engineering students.

Dr. Busch-Vischniac's main goal is to make engineering a more attractive major. In order to do that, she is attempting to better integrate the fundamental topics in engineering.

Her goal is to reduce deterrent

course prerequisites that will hinder someone from taking courses of interest to someone. She believes that the core courses such as calculus, physics, solids, kinematics and dynamics should all apply to each other.

Dr. Busch-Vischniac's goal is to "revamp" the curriculum and teach core courses such as physics and mathematics with material that applies to the real world.

She says "I would call this a minds on approach; what you can do with this calculus to understand the physics, like how the mathematics are applied to the physics that make cars move forward, for example."

The NSF funding will span across a three year plan. Currently they are listing every required course for the mechanical engineering degree, and reviewing the syllabi.

"We are going to percolate all the topics of all schools and narrow the list down from about 3000 courses to about 1000," Busch-Vischniac explains.

Each topic that is a prerequisite for the any advanced level classes are made as core curricula. Then the plan is to make each of them more exciting but different modular courses.

In this "minds on" approach Dr. Busch-Vischniac is proposing, students take the prerequisite courses, applications relating to the basics and then the non-technical material.

Under the new approach, second order systems and oscillations class should have the basic core requirements in order for engineering student to apply oscillations to everyday life.

In the non-technical sense, oscillations and cyclical courses can be applied to economics. As a result, students can apply the majority of their applications to the real world also.

How does Dr. Busch-Vischniac view this curriculum can change the face of Johns Hopkins engineering?

"As of now, I would not know. It would either look the same as of now, or it could be completely different."

## Financial incentives to recycle plentiful

In 2000 the United States recycling and reuse industry pulled in gross revenues of over \$236 billion. The industry is very competitive in terms of wages and jobs; average annual salary was approximately \$33,000 (\$3,000 above the national average) and employment reached 1.1 million.

Within the industry, paper recycling has the second highest revenue (\$50 billion) with ferrous metals coming in first.

Obviously, the recycling and reuse industry is a strong and viable part of the American economy.

Rarely considered are the economic benefits of recycling for institutions such as Johns Hopkins.

Many large institutions/corporations run recycling programs either to look better publicly or because people within the institution pushed for the change. Yet, the economic benefits of recycling are substantial.

Consider the last two years of just paper recycling at Hopkins.

Paper recycling includes corrugated cardboard, white paper and mixed paper.

In 2003, over 240 tons of paper was recycled, resulting in savings of \$16,900 from reduced trash removal and disposal.

Through Sept. of 2004, paper recycling has reached over 220 tons, resulting in almost \$15,000 in savings to the university.

Not only does it cost the Hopkins Recycling Department nothing to recycle all of this paper through primary paper recycling broker Vangel Paper, Inc., but the school actually earns money.

For the 21 months through Sept. of this year, we as a university earned almost \$3,000 just for recycling paper, of which \$650 will be donated to a local scholarship fund.

DAVE MARVIN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AGENDA

ings from recycling paper.

If Hopkins were to recycle 4200 tons of paper, in one year they'd save close to \$1.6 million in kilowatt hours of energy. Additionally, if they recycled 7000 tons of paper in one year they'd save almost \$2.6 million in gallons of water.

These numbers are amazing considering the recycle rate of Hopkins is only around 30 percent, and does not even include the tons of plastic, glass, metal and computers recycled each year at JHU.

In addition, JHMI is not included in these estimates. Therefore, JHU has much room for recycling improvement.

Just a reminder to students, large paper recycling bins will be located in the residence halls during finals each semester.

If a department would like to arrange a pickup of toner cartridges or a large amount of paper, please e-mail [recycle@jhu.edu](mailto:recycle@jhu.edu) or call 6-5592.

—Dave Marvin is president of Students for Environmental Action and works at the JHU Recycling Department.

## AIDS day spreading awareness

BY SANDYA NAIR  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

December 1 marks World AIDS day, an international effort to spread awareness about the rapidly spreading HIV and AIDS epidemic and to promote preventive measures.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is transmitted from an infected individual to an unaffected one through exchange of bodily fluids. An HIV positive individual is infected with the virus. HIV positive individuals develop AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) because the virus deteriorates their immune system. A weakened immune system makes a person extremely vulnerable to infections, which may result in death.

According to UNAIDS (a United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS), there are nearly 39.4 million adults currently living with HIV. Information from UNAIDS also indicates that Central Asia, Eastern Europe and East Asia have the sharpest increases in reported cases of individuals with HIV. Half of the currently infected individuals are women, which is a record high rate.

Furthermore, the rate of increase in HIV infection among women in many regions of the world surpasses that of men. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, 60 percent of reported HIV cases are women. In response to this, Dr. Peter Piot, UNAIDS executive director told the BBC: "Strategies to address gender inequalities are urgently needed if we want a realistic chance of turning back the epidemic."

Many factors put women at greater risk for HIV infection than men. Biologically, women are more prone to contracting HIV than men. During sex, male to female transmission of HIV is twice as probable as female to male transmission, according to UNAIDS.

Furthermore, cultural mores often augment women's susceptibility to contract HIV. In many parts of the world, women are violently forced into unprotected sex. According to UNAIDS, women in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa often engage in sex to obtain necessary goods or services, a practice that is becoming more common.

UNAIDS is attempting to reverse the trend in HIV infections through a Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. Dr. Peter Piot believes that such action is necessary to prevent violence against women and ensure access to property and inheritance rights, basic education and employment rights for women and girls."

Dr. Piot believes that although the AIDS epidemic is spreading, the number of new infections among young people is decreasing worldwide because of investment in pre-

ventive endeavors. The director general of WHO (World Health Organization), Dr. Lee Jong-Wok, supports this because he feels that "only by linking prevention and treatment can the global spread of AIDS be halted."

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universities that have received funding to engineering students.

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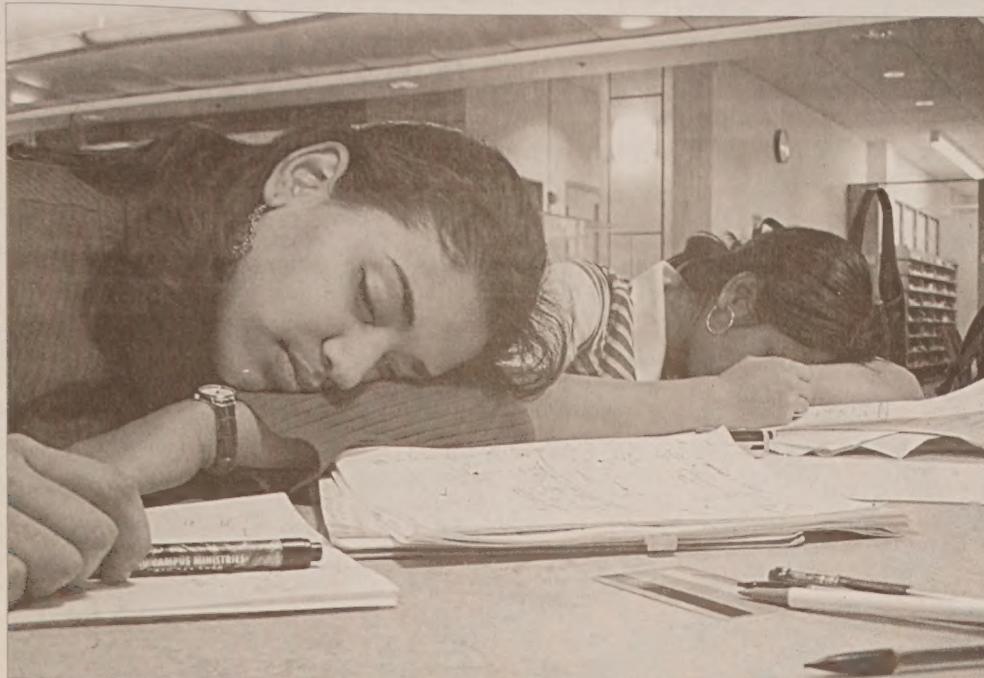
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# YOUR NEWS-LETTER



Junior Sadiya Muqueeth and sophomore Rani Pallegadda take a nap in the library instead of studying.

## In time for finals: a caffeine guide

### Your Health

BY HARRISON BRADLOW  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

With finals looming ominously upon the horizon, the term "all nighter" is taking on ever greater significance for Hopkins students. Yet who among us has not spent a few hours or more quite accidentally passed out?

It's a fact — our bodies weren't meant for the rigors that procrastinating students ask of them. Which is why we are provided with a wide array of academic performance enhancing substances.

The two most common examples around campus are various caffeinated beverages and Red Bull. But what exactly do these substances do to your body, and which is the best choice for getting through an all nighter?

We'll start with caffeine, or trimethylxanthine. Don't kid yourself, it is a drug, and an addictive one too. I can vouch for that from experience. If that doesn't surprise you, then consider that it's actually in the same family of drugs as cocaine and heroin.

Caffeine is a stimulant, but a passive one. Your body gets tired when your brain produces a hormone called adenosine. Adenosine then binds to receptors in your cells, telling them to be tired. Caffeine mimics adenosine, and binds to those receptors, but has no effect. So instead of getting tired, caffeine can give you a little jump start by kicking the adenosine molecules off their receptors.

A secondary effect caffeine has is stimulating the adrenal glands to produce adrenaline, giving an even greater short-term energy boost. The release of adrenaline is temporary, however, and this is why even though caffeine stays in your system for

hours, the strongest effects might wear off much faster.

The last thing caffeine does to your body is cause the release of dopamine by the brain. Here is where it is similar to the harder drugs mentioned earlier. Dopamine has to do with the feeling of pleasure, and researchers believe this is the step that leads to caffeine addiction.

The problem with caffeine is that after the jolt wears off, you're left lethargic and tired, perhaps feeling even more exhausted than before. I've found that the best way to beat this is to take more caffeine just as you can feel the buzz wearing off.

One should note, this is not good for your body, and should not be repeated on a daily basis. After pulling an all nighter, you should strongly consider backing off from caffeinated substances for a day or two.

How do your standard beverages measure up in caffeine content? Coffee contains about 100 mg/6 ounces, with tea coming in at 70 mg/6 ounce cup. For the Cafe Q regulars out there, realize that a "Short" beverage is 8 ounces, "Tall" is 12, and "Grande" is 16. So a Grande drip coffee would contain just under 300 mg of caffeine. A single shot of espresso has about 100 mg in it.

Sodas come in pretty far behind that, ranging from the low 30s to mid 50s in mg/can. Jolt Cola measures in at 71 mg/can, about the same as a small cup of tea (surprised?).

Another source is Jolt chewing gum. It is advertised as two pieces equaling one cup of coffee, so that comes to about 50 mg per piece of gum.

Caffeine pills? The active ingredient in the popular "NoDoz" is caffeine, the exact same active ingredient as in every other caffeine pill. So don't pay twice as much for it. Anyway, the pills contain 200 mg of caffeine each.

I've never tried this method, but

there's an old-school substitute to caffeine pills if you need a quick boost and don't have the time for coffee; a cup of instant coffee contains about 80-80 mg.

Red Bull contained about 80 mg/can. But in Red Bull, you are also consuming the stimulants taurine and glucuronolactone. If you're worried about health effects of these substances, the FDA has thus far issued no regulations upon the amounts of these substances which can be found in beverages.

So, if you have a few rough weeks ahead of you, here's my advice: Try to make it without stimulants of any sort for as long as possible. Your body does need sleep, and you are most productive when you get it. The whole bit about early to bed and early to rise carries a good amount of wisdom.

If you need some sort of stimulant, try taking it early in the day and let it work its way out of your system, so you can get a deep, restful sleep at night.

A 30-minute nap is supposed to have about the same beneficial effects as a 6 ounce cup of coffee, so try a short nap if you need a break. And try to sleep right before you pull an all nighter; it will prevent dosing and help keep you focused.

Finally, the more concentrated the substance you are taking, the faster it will hit you. A cup of coffee's beneficial effects last about 3-4 hours, whereas a shot of espresso only runs about 1-1.5.

Good luck in the coming weeks, and see you on D Level.

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### FIVE HARDEST FINALS

### Your Academics

#### Physics for Engineers II

This class is for the real gunners who manage to survive Physics I and decide to stick with it for another semester. For this reason, an already brutal test is made even more difficult as the average student knows his/her stuff a little bit better and the curve becomes less favorable. Don't count on beating the curve; there are still about 250 students in Physics II even after students drop out of Physics I.

#### Biochemistry Lab

Certain science labs, including organic chemistry and biochemistry, require that students take what is called a "practical" exam. Students are called into the lab at random to answer about 20 questions. There is a catch, however. Each question is actually part of a lab that students must perform within a certain time limit. Don't mess up though; you only have one chance to get it right.

#### Intro Political Economy I/II

Students in professor Mark Blythe's IPE classes have the option of taking an oral final examination in favor of a written task. Most students claim that if you know your stuff and have done all

the readings you should be fine. The difficulty lies in the atmosphere of the test; imagine having to prove your knowledge of economic theory to an intimidating Scotsman with sideburns.

#### Organic Chemistry II

Organic chemistry has a reputation for being the class that separates the true premeds from the wannabes. Making it through Orgo I is certainly an achievement, but Orgo II is considered far worse by most. This is one of those tests that you can spend weeks studying for and still fail miserably. Don't worry though: the writing seminars department is happy to welcome all failed premeds!

#### Calculus III

This class, required for engineers and math majors, is famous for ruining GPAs after the final exam. Students are fooled into resting on their laurels as the course gets slightly easier towards the end of the semester, but are then shocked to find that they've fallen behind and have to catch up to know the material. Plus, professors — who are generally presumed not to care much about the class — use a hard curve to balance out easy homework leading up to the exam.

— compiled by Brendan Schreiber

## The quest for a job: seniors search for lives after college

### Your Jobs

BY KATHERINE BREWER  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Allison Veditz has considered jobs in medicine, law, archeology and teaching. Veditz, a double major in history and writing seminars, is, like most seniors, about to graduate from college and is not sure what kind of job she wants or how to go about getting that job.

Hopkins' seniors of all majors who aren't applying to graduate school are looking for a job. For Veditz, a North Carolina native, location is important, and she wants to stay in the warmer areas of the United States.

"I don't want to go any farther north than Baltimore," she said.

Iverson Long, a double major in international relations and Russian, is considering moving to Europe and wouldn't mind "living in any major city."

While Long and Veditz are open to a broad variety of jobs, Joe Fontanetta, a senior international relations major, will only be truly happy with an investment banking job.

Long, Veditz and Fontanetta have agreed to allow their job search tracked throughout their senior year in this three-part series, to see where they finally settle.

The job search for Hopkins' students, like all college students, is a stressful, long ordeal that can end up at a completely different place from that intended.

### ALLISON VEDITZ: VARIOUS OPTIONS

Veditz had been considering law school for several years but decided this summer she didn't want to be a lawyer.

"I realized I was going to law school because I wanted to be a political consultant, and I realized I didn't want to practice law and that I would have to for a while after law school," Veditz said.

Unsure what to do now that she isn't planning on law school, Veditz is trying to get a temporary job teaching in low-income areas. She applied for Teach for America but found out that she would have to train this summer, when she already has plans working somewhere else.

"I think I might try to be a substitute teacher on my own for a while," Veditz said. "But I don't want to teach

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I've never tried this method, but

for a living."

Veditz has an interest in archeology after working in it this summer, but is also considering getting her post doctorate and then attending medical school. She also mentioned an interest in pursuing a masters degree in the fine arts for creative writing.

"But there is no financial aid for post docs so I'd have to get a job, save money and wait," Veditz said.

She admits that "Grad school stresses [her] out a little," and worries that graduate school in archeology is too specific.

After coming to this school considering medicine, then moving to law, and just now deciding that law wasn't for her, it is obvious that Veditz is still trying to find what works for her. She said she thinks substitute teaching would be "good for me, and would allow me to save money for grad school."

What graduate school she goes to is still very much up in the air. "Archeology is as much a realistic option as medicine, even more so because I have experience in it," she said. "Money doesn't really matter," Veditz said. "As long as I have enough to survive."

### JOE FONTANETTA:

#### A JOB (HE DOES NOT WANT) IN THE BAG

Fontanetta, an international relations major and entrepreneurship and management minor, said it was a relief when he found out earlier this semester that he was offered a position at the American Express office in Maryland as a financial advisor.

"But that's not where I really want to be," Fontanetta said. "I would love to do investment banking and would like to live in New York City."

Fontanetta has sent in several applications to employers in both New York and in Maryland, and has several interviews lined up for Christmas break.

"I've used the Career Center as much as possible," Fontanetta said. "The Career Center is really helpful for science kids, but not so much for investment banking."

"I just want a job; that's when I'll feel secure," Fontanetta said. "It's good to have the American Express job to fall back on, but if I get an investment banking job I'll be really happy."

If the American Express job is all that pans out, he doesn't mind living in Baltimore, especially considering how much cheaper it is to live here than in New York.

"You can always transfer within a company," he said. "I just worry about getting my foot in the door."

But Fontanetta feels pretty confident about his interviews over winter break. "I think I'm good at interviews — hopefully my applications will be good enough to get me noticed for some."

Although he is an international relations major, Fontanetta isn't really interested in working in government.

"My interests developed over time. I figured what I wanted to do at the end of sophomore, beginning of junior, year."

He said he's interested in investment banking because the idea of controlling a company coming into the market fascinates him.

### IVERSON LONG: INTERNSHIPS TO JOB

Long, a double major in international relations and Russian with a minor in economics, isn't applying for jobs; he's applying for summer internships that will lead to a job.

"I hope that an internship at the state department or somewhere else will turn into a job," Long said.

Long, like Veditz, changed majors late, switching for classics and writing seminars to international relations.

"I realized that I was never going to be a great writer or a great Latin scholar and I didn't want to teach," Long said. "An IR major allows more interaction with people, and I like that."

He, like many seniors, is considering graduate school and sees working for a few years after college as a way of getting into a good graduate school.

"Most graduate schools in international relations or business want some job experience," Long said, "so even if these internships don't lead to a job, they will give me experience."

Long spends his junior year in Moscow and is very interested in U.S. relations with Russia. He said he could see himself working in Russia or central Europe for a few years and hopes on settling in any major city.

"I don't really have a grand scheme but I'd like to do diplomacy or international business," Long said. "I just want to be financially independent and gaining experience in fields that interest me."

Long also finds looking for a job stressful and time consuming. "Looking for a job is almost like taking an extra class; it's a lot of work."

## Kranti's a capella combines tradition and rock

### Your Clubs

BY JESSICA REBARBER  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

agenda until early last spring. Once the constitution was written, Kranti had to then wait again to be placed on the docket until this fall. Finally, Kranti was approved and can now move forward as a recognized group.

The major roadblock that Kranti now faces is funding. They are currently in their probationary year for the PAC, which means they cannot request funding until the fall



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

Senior running back Adam Cook broke the Hopkins all-time rushing record in his final game as a Blue Jay, finishing his career with 2,769 yards.

## Jays overcome 14-point deficit in victory

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

Earnest returned a short punt 15 yards to give the Jays good field position at the Yellow Jackets' 31-yard line.

"It's nice to have a kick returner that consistently gives the offense good field position," said senior guard Mike Speer in regards to Evan Earnest. "It was also great to see him elevate his game receiving, too."

Dilonno ran a quarterback draw for nine yards on first down and senior fullback Nate Readel plunged ahead on the next play for two more, giving Hopkins a first down at the Waynesburg 20.

After two incomplete passes, Dilonno and Earnest hooked up for a big third down conversion on an out route, placing the ball at the Yellow Jacket eight. Cook covered all eight yards on the next play, giving the Jays a short-lived 23-21 lead — their first lead of the game.

Just when it seemed that Hopkins had all of the momentum, a Yellow Jacket defender deflected Scott's extra point attempt into the hands of Waynesburg safety Andy Tenney. Tenney proceeded to return the PAT attempt 107 yards for two points, which knotted the score at 23-23. Hopkins first lead of the game officially lasted zero seconds in game time.

After another Hopkins defensive stop, the Jays began to drive the length of the field. Facing a third and seven at the Blue Jays 25-yard line, Earnest made his most impressive, and possi-

bly most important, catch of the afternoon. Dilonno threw in front of Earnest while he was crossing over the middle, forcing him to dive. Earnest made the full-extension catch before falling to the turf and breaking his collarbone.

Despite obvious pain, Earnest held onto the ball and kept the drive alive. Dilonno and Wolcott connected for 36 yards on the next play to get the ball deep into Yellow Jacket territory. Cook carried the ball several times to advance the ball inside the Waynesburg five, but an offensive pass interference penalty negated a Wolcott touchdown reception and set up Scott's game-winning field goal.

Hopkins' super sophomores shined during the team's third consecutive ECAC championship. Hagel's unbelievable 18 tackle performance, coupled with Earnest's 151 all-purpose yards and timely three receptions, gave the rest of the Blue Jay starters enough help to overcome a talented Waynesburg team.

"It's always great to end the season

on a win and that used to mean beating [McDaniel] in our last regular season game," said Hopkins head coach Jim Margraff. "But for the past three seasons, we have been able to take the intensity from that game and

win again against an opponent we've never faced. It was great to see our offense come back and our defense make the necessary adjustments to shut out a good offense in the second half."

The Blue Jays finish up at 9-2, tying the record for second most wins in school history, along with the 2002 team.

The Hopkins record was established in 2003, when the Jays finished 10-1. Hopkins will graduate 15 seniors — a class that is now the winningest in school history with a 34-8 record. The senior class includes two All-America selections, five All-Centennial players and two CoSIDA District II Academic All-Americans.

Cook is the all-time school leader in rushing and all-purpose yards. Senior safety Matt Campbell is second on the all-time Hopkins interception

list with 16. Wolcott finishes his career with his name all over the Hopkins receiving record book; he ranks fourth in receptions (141), third in yards (2,342) and second in touchdowns (26).

Linebacker Chris Wegman and fullback Nate Readel have both been three-year starters on Hopkins three winningest teams. Another equally important loss will be senior long snapper Jake Kail, who handled the long and short-snapping duties for all four years of his career without one bad snap.

The Blue Jays also graduate five offensive linemen who have seen significant amounts of action during their four years. All-American and captain Matt Weeks is the lone senior at tackle, guards Bill Carpluk, Ryan Sheare and Mike Speer have all started during the past two seasons and tight end Jon Zimmer started several games during his senior season.

It was great to see our offense come back and our defense make the necessary adjustments to shut out a good offense in the second half.

—JIM MARGRAFF,  
HEAD COACH

## M. Basketball loses second straight

Hopkins drops back-to-back road games, falls to 2-2

BY MELISSA KIM  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The Johns Hopkins men's basketball split its first four games, opening the season at 2-2. The Jays opened their season by hosting and winning the Blue Jay Invitational Tournament on the weekend of Nov. 19-20. Hopkins' most recent match-ups, however, resulted in an 80-67 loss to the Villa Julie College Mustangs and a 69-62 defeat at the hands of Carnegie Mellon on Wednesday.

Early in the first half of the contest against Villa Julie, the Mustangs jumped out to an early 18-5 lead, but the Jays' returning junior guard and co-captain Frank Mason hit a three-pointer from downtown and followed up with a lay-in to pull Hopkins within five points. Nevertheless, Villa Julie stormed back with a 10-0 scoring spree, running away with a 28-10 lead. The Jays climbed back to within 12 points of Villa Julie by halftime, but never recovered. The Mustangs increased their lead to as many as 21 points in the second half.

Sophomore center Danny Nawrocki, who has already shown improvement following his standout performance as a freshman a year ago, paced Hopkins with 17 points and nine rebounds. He currently leads the team with an average of 19.3 points and 11 rebounds per game and was also named the Centennial Conference Player of the Week.

Senior forward and co-captain Eric Toback posted 12 points and eight rebounds.



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

Junior guard Bobby Sharafeddin splits a double team vs. Frostburg St.

hit consecutive three pointers during an early 8-0 run helping the Jays grab a 46-36 lead. The Jays led by as many as 16 points during three different periods in the game.

Sharafeddin posted a career-high 16 points and was named to the 2004 All-Tournament team. He also made three of his attempted six three-pointers in the second half of the Keystone victory.

Toback chipped in with 15 points and nine rebounds. As a team, the Jays connected on seven of 11 attempts from behind the arc in the second half.

Picked to finish second behind Franklin & Marshall in the Centennial Conference preseason poll, the Jays are looking to exact revenge over the Diplomats, who eliminated Hopkins from the Centennial Championship tournament last year.

The Jays headed to their first game on the road against Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania on Wednesday night.

# Football assistant wins AFCA award

Keith Emery to be recognized in January

BY JON ZIMMER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

During the Johns Hopkins football team's run of three consecutive Centennial Conference championships, the squad's most valuable asset has been a stingy defense. That defensive success starts with fourth year 'D' coordinator Keith Emery, who was recently named Division III Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches' Association (AFCA).

"The tough attitude of our defense comes from him," said junior linebacker Adam Luke, who works closely with Emery during his position drills. "He's extremely dedicated, and that shows through in his game planning. He's always got a good scheme for us."

Hopkins relied heavily upon its defense during its four-game winning streak during the end of the 2004 season, especially in the 12-9 win over McDaniel College to clinch a share of the conference crown. The Jays' defense scored the game's lone touchdown, was credited with a safety and also setup a field goal with a fumble recovery deep inside McDaniel territory.

Since Emery took over as coordinator in 2001, the Jays defense has led

the nation in pass efficiency twice (2001 and 2003). The '01 squad was also the first Division III team not to allow a single touchdown pass for an entire season since 1980.

In addition to his defensive coordinator duties, Emery also serves as the position coach for the inside linebackers and is integral to Hopkins' recruiting efforts.

"Working with Coach Emery has helped me understand our defensive scheme better as a whole," said Luke, who led the team in tackles as a sophomore with 71. "He's very good at explaining exactly how a player fits into a specific scheme. He just has a great football mind."

Hopkins has posted a 34-8 overall record since Emery took over the defense, including a 10-1 season in 2003. That year, the Jays intercepted 28 passes, allowed just 7.0 points per game and posted three straight shutouts at one point in the season.

The criteria for the award include on-field coaching ability, team and player success and volunteer and community-related activities.

Emery will be honored with a plaque at this year's AFCA Kickoff Luncheon, which will be a part of the AFCA Convention starting Jan. 10 in Louisville, Ky.

## OFFSEASON NEWS AND NOTES

### MENS LACROSSE RELEASES 2005 SCHEDULE

Hopkins has won its last 27 contests on Homewood Field.

### WATER POLO RANKED NO. 3 IN FINAL DIVISION III POLL

Hopkins finished the season behind only Whittier College and University of Redlands in the final Division III National Collegiate Poll.

The Blue Jays also garnered the No. 8 ranking in the end of the season CWPA Top 10 Poll. Princeton took the top spot in the CWPA.

Brian Mead, who scored 100 goals this season, earned first team All-Southern honors.



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# Jays win fifth straight game



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

Freshman guard Andrea Doodrill fights through a foul in the Wash. win.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

forth manner that continued throughout the first half. Both teams played primarily in the half-court, with only two fast-break points between the two teams combined. The Jays entered the half holding a five-point advantage.

The Blue Jay shooters caught fire in the second half and quickly crushed any Bullets hope of victory. Led by Sophomore guard Whitney Davis's 21 second-half points and red-hot three-point shooting, the Blue Jays quickly left the Bullets in the dust with a 14-4 run early in the second half. Senior forward Ashanna Randall was also a key contributor, scoring 21 points while shooting a near perfect

10 of 12 from the field.

Davis finished with a career high 31 points in only 15 minutes of play. Senior guard Ashley Felix came up one point short of a double-double with nine points and 10 rebounds.

"[Whitney] had an absolutely extraordinary game," said junior forward Amanda Leese. "She has worked so hard for this season. Her performance is an illustration of the great depth we have. Depth has always been a theme at Hopkins and that is why we are always so good. We can wear teams down. Look at Gettysburg, it's not that they are a bad team, it's just that they ran out of options against us."

Led by their second half scoring

outburst and Davis' career game, Hopkins easily cruised to victory over the Bullets, 98-74. The win also improved the Jays to 2-0 in the conference.

This past Sunday against Case Western Reserve, the Blue Jays entered the match-up as the heavy favorites. Hopkins lived up to the billing by building a early lead, spurred by Felix's early eight points and an 11-0 run, putting the Blue Jays up 21-9 with 12:25 remaining in the quarter.

A three-pointer by junior guard Katie O'Malley gave the Blue Jays a 15-point lead, their largest of the half, and they were able to quell comeback attempts by Case Western Reserve to take a 10-point lead into halftime.

The Blue Jays were able to completely shut down the Case Western Reserve offense in the first half, due to staunch defense that held the Spartans to 30 percent shooting while forcing 16 turnovers.

Only lackluster free throw shooting by the Jays (seven of 17) kept the Spartans in the game.

Despite all their efforts in the second half, the Spartans were unable to pose any serious threat to the Blue Jays' lead. With 7:36 left to play, the Spartans trailed the Jays by 12, Hopkins then went on a 16-2 run to put away the victory, 78-53.

Felix led the Blue Jays with 19 points, while sophomore forward Julie Miller finished with a double-double, 17 points and 13 rebounds. Felix's 19 points marked a new career-high.

Hopkins was helped significantly in the contest by the Spartans' 31 turnovers and poor shooting from beyond the arc (three of 20).

The Blue Jays return home this Thursday to face Lebanon Valley at 7 p.m. before beginning a grueling stretch this winter that includes numerous Centennial Conference games and the Grand Canyon Classic in Phoenix, Ariz. on Dec. 29.

"Part of the challenge is not to get complacent," said junior forward Amanda Leese. "McDaniel, Muhlenberg and Franklin & Marshall will be good competitors, but we have to keep working even against the lesser quality teams and improve our play. The biggest challenge will be to keep our momentum."

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12**  
"We always go into a meet wanting to dominate the breaststroke, we have the depth and talent to really kill a team in the breaststroke events and it is a goal of ours to take full advantage of that so we can win a meet," said Harris.

Sneed and juniors Sean Kim and Dan Kim placed first, second and fourth, respectively, in the 100-yard butterfly to put Hopkins 12 points ahead of Yale. Balfour then placed first in the 200-yard individual medley, winning by .01 second in the last 25 yards, assuring Hopkins of victory.

"I got really fired up before the 200 individual medley," said Balfour. "When I came off the last wall I really did not want to lose another race or let Yale win the meet. Somehow I caught the guy and got him by a hundredth of a second to win the race. I haven't ever been that excited at a dual meet, the place went nuts, it's something I'll never forget."

"We swam well, we were intense, we won some close races, and gained confidence for our three day meet at Miami Ohio this coming weekend," said head coach George Kennedy. "It is always great for our team to step up and race against teams like Yale, Navy, Maryland, UMBC and North Carolina. All of these teams are D-I, and it is good to be respected by them."

On the women's side there were also some strong performances, although only 10 members of the team participated.

"Yale is a great D-I team and although we did not have the depth to compete against Yale everyone who

# Women lose to Bulldogs, 174-84



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

Despite swimming with a limited squad, the Jays stayed competitive.

swam gave it her all and swam well," said senior co-captain Jeanine Juillet.

Junior Kalei Walker started off the meet by winning the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 1:57.33. Walker also swam a strong 100-yard freestyle, coming in second with 54.31. Junior Jessica Chang also had a productive meet, winning the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:29.46. Chang also came back for two more wins in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:08.89 and the 100-yard butterfly.

After the first five events of the meet the Bulldogs were only ahead of the Jays by a score of 58-32.

"We had a lot of strong races but just did not have enough people to make it a worthy match up," said Juillet.

"Our women swam very well against Yale," said Kennedy. "We were missing four swimmers who were sick, in classes, or had an injury, but those who did swim had super performances. Chang, sophomore Kelly Robinson and Walker had very impressive showings. Much of the hard work paid off toward some nice time improvements."

The Blue Jays are next in action this weekend at the Miami of Ohio Invitational in Oxford, Ohio.

# Wrestling hoping to progress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

wrestle."

But when mental readiness is an issue, the most important thing for a wrestling team is for a few guys to step up and set an example. Luckily, the Blue Jays had just that this past weekend.

Sophomore 125-pounder Jimmy Van Daniker, the top seed in his weight class, held his focus and fought his way to a perfect record and the tournament title. After a third-period pin and a decision brought him to the title bout against NYU's Brian Benson, Van Daniker wrestled hard for a 3-2 victory and a tournament win. He has set the high mark so far this year, going 8-1 with two major decisions and two pins.

"Jimmy is a good bet to make the NCAA tournament," said assistant coach Gregg Kessler.

Other Blue Jays boasting good showings were senior 157-pounder Reno Reitmayer and junior 174-pounder Trey Kohl. Both exceeded expectations with third-place finishes.

"The tournament was a breakthrough moment in both of their careers," said Kessler. "They rose to the occasion."

Reitmayer scored a win in his first match against RIT's Andrew Pritchard, but then lost 10-5 to the second seed, Dan Moskowitz of Plymouth. Reitmayer, though, lost no momentum in the consolation bracket as he strung together four consecutive wins in his final matches, including a convincing 9-0 major decision against second seed Will Carroll of Maritime.

Kohl, too, put together a strong showing, going 3-1 with a major decision, a technical fall, and a pin. The pin came in his first bout against Scranton's Matt Pastore, but he then lost, 7-4, to top seed Kyle Hauptfleish of Oneonta.

He then posted in the consolation bracket an 18-2 technical fall against Plymouth's Nick Gurney and an 11-2 major decision against NYU's Kevin Morgan, the third seed.

Hopefully these finishes will set the tone for the Jays as they head into a tough tournament this weekend. Messiah's Petroses tournament will be a big challenge for the Jays, as it features two top 10 teams, and three top 15.

"It will be an accomplishment for

anyone who places at this tournament," said Salvo.

But the team is preparing hard and looking for a strong finish. In spite of a subpar season start, Hopkins can make its presence known on a national level with big wins against this tough competition. Said Salvo:

"We're hoping to turn it around this weekend."

If attitude is all they need to get there, they should do just that.

# Soccer falls in NCAAs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12

thing short of what we accomplished this year."

The team credits its brilliant year to its camaraderie and proximity of teammates. "You can't teach a team the sort of teamwork we had," said Grosser.

"We had a great year," said junior defender and co-captain Traver Davis. "I can attribute our success this year mostly to team chemistry. We got a really good group of guys who are really close on and off the field. When you play for each other and not for yourself, the team will benefit and that's what took place this year."

The Jays also credit the leadership of Kane, senior defender and co-captain Chris Brown and red-shirt senior forward Doug Pollack to their accomplishments this season. Both Kane and Brown will graduate in the spring, while Pollack will return for his last season as he earns his master's degree.

"It's rough to see [Brown] go... being part of the back line... he's just so dominant on defense and as a leader it's going to be so hard to replace him," said Grosser. "With Gary

[Kane], it's real hard to know that [the Salisbury game] would be the last time we would pair up in the sweeper/goalie/wingman combination. Playing together for three years definitely helped us become one of best defenses in the country."

"The backbone of a team is [usually] their seniors, and only having three of them can be tough, but they used their experience and skills to lead us through the season. [Kane] had an unbelievable season, as did [Brown]. When you have good senior leadership, the rest of the team rallies around them," said Davis.

The Jays finish their season with a record .950 winning percentage and a record 19-game winning streak. They also claimed the 2004 Centennial Conference Championship.

"The goal at the start of the season was to win the conference championship. We achieved that," said junior midfielder Stephen Walsh. "The undefeated regular season and the NCAAs were an amazing bonus and just a reward for all the hard work the coaches and players put in."

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SATURDAY

W. Basketball vs. Dickinson  
M. Basketball vs. Dickinson2 p.m.  
4 p.m.

Packers' quarterback Brett Favre established a new record for consecutive seasons with 20 or more touchdown passes (11) during Green Bay's dominant Monday Night win over the Rams. The Colts' Peyton Manning has already accomplished that feat seven straight years and is just 28 years old.

# SPORTS

## W.B-ball now 12th in D-III

Jays cruise to easy wins over Case Western and G'burg

BY BRYAN CURTIN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

The John's Hopkins women's basketball team continued its dominating play this past week, dispatching Case Western Reserve, 78-53 and Gettysburg, 98-74. The two wins improved the Blue Jay's record to 2-0 in the Centennial Conference and 5-0 overall.

The Blue Jays also made strides in the D3hoops.com poll, moving up five spots to take the No. 12 ranking in the national poll released this past Tuesday.

The ranking was not only a result of the Jays' undefeated record, but also their astonishing 27.5 point average margin of victory over their first five games.

The Blue Jays hit the road for the first time this year on Tuesday, when they traveled up to Gettysburg, Penn. to take on the Bullets in their second Centennial Conference match of the year.

The game began in a back-and-

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10

## Wrestling places in seventh at Oneonta

BY ZACH GOODMAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

In spite of one title, two third- and two fifth-place finishes at last weekend's Red Dragon Invitational, Hopkins wrestling still has a ways to go.

"We were hoping to do a lot better," said head coach Kirk Salvo.

Overall, Hopkins finished seventh out of nine teams with 74.5 points. Oneonta State, the tournament's host, won with 128. Salvo cited the team's main problem as more psychological than physical.

"We've been lacking mental preparation early," he said. "Guys aren't ready to fight like hell."

For a wrestler, mental conditioning is just as much a process as physical conditioning. In regards to intensity, the Jays have not yet reached midseason form. With early tournaments squeezing many matches into one day, the results appear magnified. But Salvo maintains the team is solid and will succeed once the wrestlers are motivated on the mat. Referring to the recent tournaments, he said, "Everybody's capable of placing. It's a matter of who's ready to go."

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11

## M. Swimming upsets D-I Yale squad, 136-126



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-Letter

The men's swim team won eight of the 14 events in the landmark win over the Yale University Bulldogs right before Thanksgiving break.

## Jays secure third straight ECAC title with 26-23 win



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-Letter

Junior quarterback Zach DiLionno threw for one TD against Waynesburg.

BY STEVE SHUKIE  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

After forcing a five-way tie for the Centennial Conference championship with a 12-9 win over Muhlenberg to close out the regular season, the Johns Hopkins football team ended its 2004 campaign with a 26-23 win over Waynesburg College in the ECAC Southeast Championship game on Nov. 20. The come-from-behind victory improved the Blue Jays record to 9-2, punctuating a remarkable three-year run of 34 wins, eight losses, three Centennial titles and three ECAC Championships.

Sophomore kicker Ben Scott connected on a 37-yard field goal with just over five minutes remaining to break a 23-23 tie, putting Hopkins in the lead for good. Sophomore strong safety Matt Hagel was named the

game's Most Valuable Player, as he registered a career-high 18 tackles to lead the Blue Jay defense. Hagel capped an impressive sophomore season, pacing the team with 106 tackles, including 16 tackles for a loss.

Twice during the game, Hopkins trailed the Yellow Jackets by 14 points, but the Jays were able to grab the momentum before halftime, scoring 10 points in the last six minutes of the second quarter. Scott kicked the first of his two field goals, a 28-yarder, to make the score 21-10.

After the Hopkins defense stopped Waynesburg on fourth down, senior runningback Adam Cook took the ball and scampered 41 historic yards to move into Yellow Jacket territory and the Hopkins record books. The 41-yard run moved Cook ahead of Adam Gentile for the most rushing yards in school history. Cook finished

with 110 for the game and 2,769 during his four-year career.

"It's nice to have the record now," said Cook. "But I hope that [junior] T.J. Lyons and [sophomore] Mark Nesbitt both break it in the next few years."

Junior quarterback Zach DiLionno then completed three straight passes, first finding Lyons on a screen for 14 yards, then hitting senior wide receiver Brian Wolcott (three receptions, 54 yards) for 18 yards and finally finding sophomore Evan Ernest (three receptions, 37 yards) for a nine-yard touchdown. Scott's extra point brought the Jays within four points at halftime.

The third quarter was a defensive battle, as neither team could muster a scoring drive during the 15-minute frame. Early in the fourth quarter,

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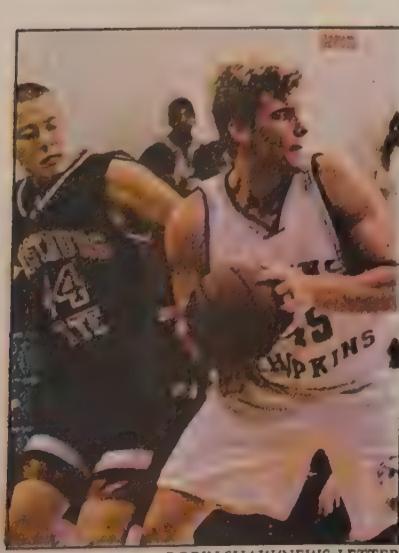
## INSIDE

### Men's Basketball drops two after tourney win

Following impressive victories over Frostburg State and Keystone in the Blue Jay Invitational, Hopkins has struggled in its last two games. Local foe Villa Julie and Carnegie Mellon both got the best of the Blue Jays this past week, despite standout performances from sophomore Dan Nawrocki. Page A10

### Football's Emery wins AFCA Assistant Coach of the Year for Division III

Defensive Coordinator Keith Emery will be honored at the annual AFCA Convention this coming January for his exemplary performance since 2001. The Jays have posted a 34-8 record during since he took over the defense, leading the nation in pass efficiency defense in 2001 and 2003. Page A11



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-Letter

Sophomore forward Dan Nawrocki is leading the Jays in scoring and rebounding.

## M. Soccer's magical run ends at Salisbury

BY MELISSA KIM  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Sweet sixteen was bittersweet for the Johns Hopkins men's soccer team, as it fell to No. 3 Salisbury, 1-0. The loss brings to an end what has been a landmark season in the history of the program. The Jays came up short against the Seagulls, halting Hopkins' 19-game winning streak.

The Seagulls came out trying to shoot their way through a Hopkins defense that had been almost impenetrable throughout the regular season, out-shooting the Jays 14 to five.

The Seagulls' leading scorer, junior forward Bill Whittington, scored the lone goal of the game in the 67th minute.

"We really just ran into a solid team that had the home field advantage and we had an off day," said junior defenseman and co-captain Jeff Grosser. "It was an awful time for an

off day but it happens."

Senior goalkeeper and co-captain Gary Kane, Jr. finished his career at Hopkins with five saves in the game. Kane allowed only five goals this entire season.

Although the Jays failed to advance deeper into the NCAA tournament, they are looking on this past season as a learning experience. They are very optimistic for next year.

"Even though we had a great season, both the players and the coaching staff know that we have quite a few weak areas and that we are going to start working on improving these for next year immediately. We will train ourselves over the winter and get together again as a team in the spring," said junior midfielder Stephen Walsh.

"As a team we're going to learn as much as we can from this season," said Grosser. "Our preparation for next season starts right now and we're not going to be satisfied with any

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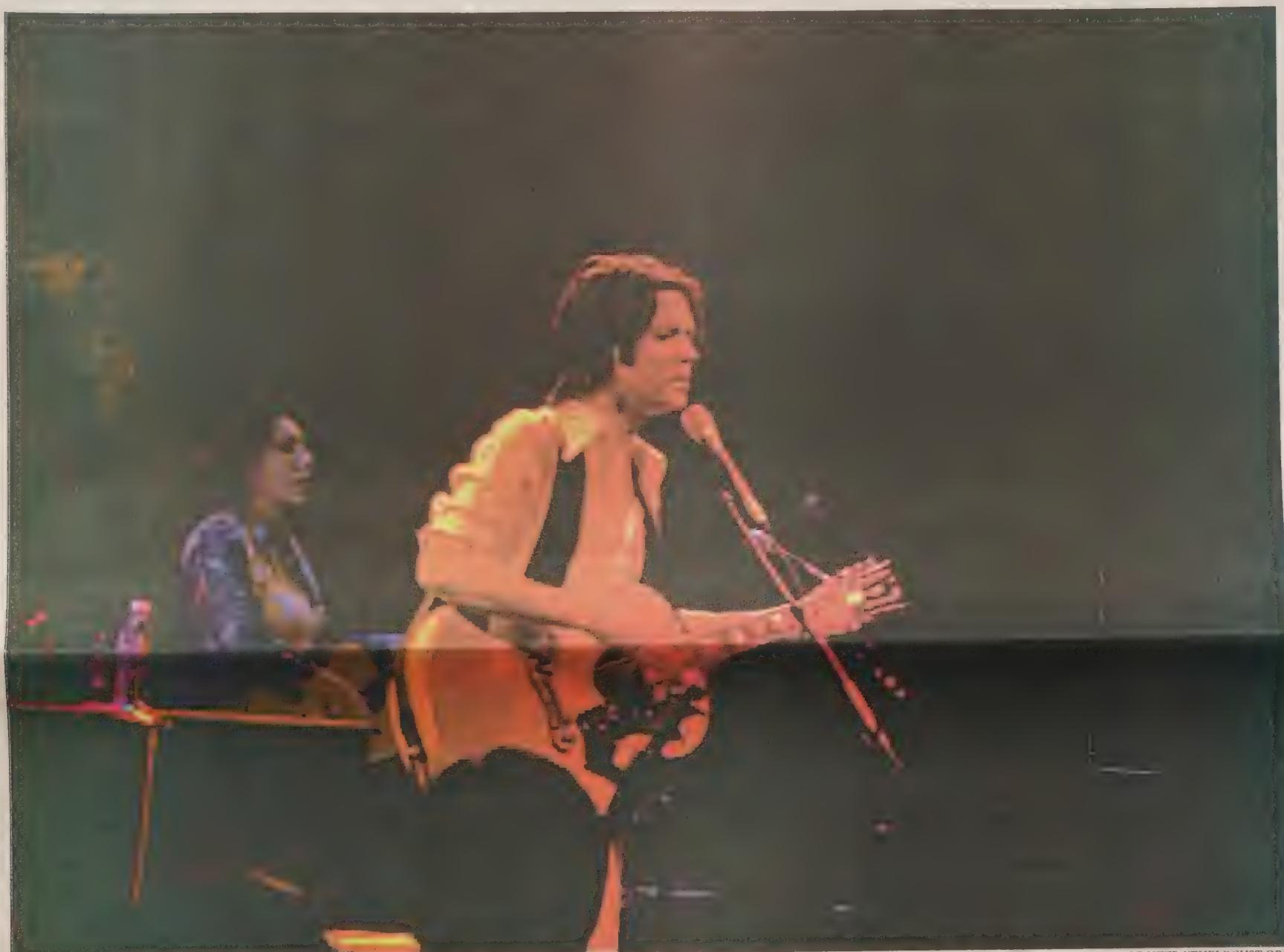
ROBIN SHAW/FILE PHOTO

Senior defenseman Chris Brown and the Jays fell short against No. 3 Salisbury, 1-0.

# The B Section

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2004

## Wain's World



COURTESY OF [HTTP://THELOCUST.ORG](http://THELOCUST.ORG)

The Hopkins Organization for Programming is bringing indie pop singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright to Shriver Hall this Friday. Wainwright will be promoting his new album, *Want Two*.

### Wainwright set to rock Shriver hall

BY MAHA JAFRI  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Romantic, operatic and so-damn-handsome Rufus Wainwright is playing in Shriver Hall on Friday evening, courtesy of the HOP (and at \$3, no less). Get on it, kids; Wainwright's music is spicy, lush, and poignantly sassy — everything you'd expect from a reformed club kid with a classical music education and an outspoken approach to politics, art and life.

Raised mainly in Montreal and currently spending most of his time in New York City, Wainwright is the son of folk musicians Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle. Drawing influence from sources ranging from opera to Middle Eastern to surf pop to Judy Garland, Wainwright doesn't shy away from an ambitious approach. Wainwright established his elegant, bold style on his self-titled debut and has continued to deliver on his three subsequent albums and other creative efforts.

Wainwright's voice, with its sleepy, soaring expressiveness, would make a recitation of the Hopkins *Compendium* captivating, and his lyrics run from bittersweet poesy to biting wit to formidable, aching brilliance. Blessing modern pop with stand-outs such as "Cigarettes and Chocolate Milk," "Danny Boy," "Gay Messiah," and a feisty cover of Seth Swirsky's "Instant Pleasure" that appeared (weirdly) on the *Big Daddys* soundtrack, Wainwright has been a prolific presence in recent pop music.

Running his mouth on desire, identity, and the current state of politics, Wainwright



COURTESY OF [HTTP://THELOCUST.ORG](http://THELOCUST.ORG)

Wainwright's material translates well to the more intimate setting of live performance.

speaks his mind both in and out of the studio. Having come out in his early teens, Wainwright makes no secret of his conflicted opinion on contemporary gay culture, where he finds both great inspiration and disappointment. While still searching for his place in both the gay community and the greater scope of mainstream culture, Wainwright's fan base has broadened considerably in the past few years. In the April 2004 issue of *Interview*, he speaks of his initial fan base to Elton John, saying, "the main audience that eventually sought me out was girls — young, emotionally sensitive and maybe slightly damaged girls who really looked up to me as this beacon of compassion. I always loved that relationship."

Since then, Wainwright has found greater footing and admiration in both the gay community and mass media — his cover of the Beatles' "Across the Universe" brought a new

tenderness to the original and was featured on the *I Am Sam* soundtrack. The cover has been revived in a Canon television commercial, proving once again that no matter how good a piece of art is, there's a product somewhere that can trivialize it.

So there's every reason to come to the show on Friday night — Wainwright is reported to be a hypnotizing live performer and Shriver can be an unexpectedly intimate venue. And since he's constantly moving up and down on the public radar, there's a chance that a year or two from now, seeing him in concert will be near impossible.

And if you don't come because you haven't heard Wainwright's music, that's cool — just know that you'll probably regret it in a few months. Because what with the soundtracks, commercials and TV appearances under his belt (and more to come), you won't be able to avoid him much longer.

### New album leaves listeners wanting

Rufus Wainwright —  
*Want Two*  
Geffen  
Nov. 16, 2004



Sequels are often just retreads of tired themes, dressed up with bigger production and empty special effects, designed to recapture the magic of old hits without ever giving them a new dimension. But when listening to Rufus Wainwright's new album *Want Two*, the follow up to last year's *Want One*, you'll find he's not just up to his old tricks.

*Want Two* could just have easily been entitled *Want None*, the darker opposite to Wainwright's grand, saccharine and somewhat overproduced first entry in the series. Where *One* paired elaborate orchestra arrangements with Wainwright's vocals ("Oh What A World" is sung to Maurice Ravel's "Bolero") to create vast soundscapes, *Two* uses arrangements to create somber dirges, much more focused and subtle in intent. The first track "Agnus Dei" is the best example of this: six minutes of wails sung gently in Latin, surrounded by a whispering string orchestra and some instrument called a cimbalom.

This ultimately allows the focus to center on Wainwright's vocals, the orchestra surrounding him acting as a scalpel, rather than a broadsword. But unfortunately, Wainwright's enthusiasm for utilizing this motifs do not to match the opportunity.

Lyrical, Wainwright has traded in his usual witty, insight for the opportunity to entertain his whinier side. He laments the passing of his youth ("Hometown Waltz"), of a missed chance for love ("The Art Teacher"), the direction of gay culture ("Gay Messiah") and modern day America ("Waiting for a Dream"); all beautifully sung and written, of course, but not very much fun.

The album ultimately sounds like an extended impressionistic dreamscape. It's no accident that Wainwright's album art shows his lyrics set against a Turner landscape, between pictures of him sleeping. But for an artist as talented as Wainwright, great background music is a bit of a disappointment.

All this being said, Wainwright's live performances have always been his best showings. But if you want to gain some exposure to his catalog before this Friday's show, *Poses* or his self-titled debut would be better choices.

-Maany Peyvan

# HOLIDAY SHOPPING FOCUS

## Holidays bring business to bookstore

BY ANNA YUKHANANOV  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

You're running out of time. Looming deadlines, finals, papers — everything is piling up. On top of school-work, you also need to somehow find the time to get presents for family and friends.

Conveniently, the Hopkins Bookstore is right on campus, in the basement of Gilman, and it's an option for last-minute holiday shopping.

"There's always a big spike in sales around this time, starting from right before Thanksgiving," said David Lynch, the manager of the Hopkins Bookstore. "Some people are going home for the first time since the beginning of the year, and they get stuff for their brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers."

Lynch said that the most popular items are "anything that says Hopkins."

"People come here for Hopkins stuff because you can't get that anywhere else," he said. "We don't sell electronics, which is the hottest category this season. We have a very focused type of merchandise — we're a niche market."

Most students buy items for family members, Lynch said.

"Right now, we have a lot of gift books and bargain books," he said. "An aunt might appreciate something like an Italian cookbook. Some things, like golf balls, students wouldn't buy for themselves, but they're a great gift."

The bookstore is also convenient because students can use J-Cash, Lynch said.

"Sometimes that means Mom or Dad are paying for their own presents," he said.

"Also, what happens is that when finals hit, students sell their books back to us, and we hopefully put some cash in their hands," Lynch said. "And it's really handy to say, hey, I'm at the bookstore, I'll buy something for my sister."

Wandering around the bookstore,



**Junior Lukasz Bugaj (left) and sophomore Teddy Drivas are among the campus bookstore's customers during a busier holiday season. The students' purchases are rung up by bookstore employee Jeannie Larson.**

you will probably discover plenty of potential gifts for your family and friends.

A pair of fuzzy royal blue slippers with Johns Hopkins on the sole is good for a teenage sister. Or perhaps she would like lavender Hopkins pajama pants.

Maybe your mother would like a gift-wrapped box of milk chocolate

in Hopkins wrappers.

And for a golf-addicted Dad, there is that three-pack of Hopkins golfballs.

Senior Sarah Hunt said she bought her brother a Hopkins sweatshirt from the bookstore.

"I think high school kids like wearing things with college logos on them, so it's a good present for younger siblings," she said.

The quintessential holiday present for any relative is a hand-painted Johns Hopkins ornament.

Headbands, hats, scarves or

gloves, all emblazoned with the Hopkins name,

are useful presents for winter.

For a baby niece or cousin, there's a Snoopy Hopkins t-shirt or a soft cheetah bear. For something more original, there's a green frog or a moose with Velcro arms, with the words "Hanging out at Hopkins" on its shirt.

If you want to try something besides Hopkins gear, a Far Side desk calendar can greet a friend with humor every morning.

**— SENIOR SARAH HUNT**

There are also colorful cactus candles, a belly dancing kit, or bookmarks with inspirational quotes.

One especially useful thing for students here is a Greater Baltimore Atlas. Your friends with cars can venture outside campus without fear of getting lost.

Artistic types might appreciate the magnetic poetry kit, especially its college-themed editions.

The bookstore offers a variety of gifts for anyone on your list. And your effort will probably be appreciated.

Freshman June Tibaleka said her friends

really liked the presents she sent them.

"I'm an international student, so my friends and family look at it in a different way," she said. "Friends liked it because it's Hopkins, so it's something that they haven't really seen much of. And I'm also planning to get something for my mom. She knows that is was such a dream for me to come here."

## Hampden, the anti-mall for quirky gifts

BY JIBBS MERKEL  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Perhaps the antithesis of the mall scene, the Avenue (36th Street) in Hampden is home to a number of shops that redefine kitsch. But you'll find much more than just tacky and bizarre gifts if you look in the right places. From gourmet chocolates to signed books, Hampden has some class amidst all its cheesy lawn ornaments.

### Ma Petite Shoe — Shoes and Chocolate

While this store showcases its collection of funky, fancy and French shoes, it is also the place to visit when shopping for that special someone with a sweet tooth. Walk past the Parisian shoes and you'll find a mouthwatering selection of chocolates. Here the store breaks with the French theme to provide its customers with everything from Belgian truffles to chocolate bars from Ecuador. A warning to female shoe fanatics and any chocoholics: it may be difficult to get out of this store without purchasing a little something for yourself.

### True Vine — Records & CDs

This is a record store that actually does sell records. Of course, it offers an eclectic mix of CDs as well. The sign advertises "underground, obscure, classics," and the selection stands by that. If you have a friend who would appreciate a bizarre addition to his music collection, or if you're looking for a hard-to-find CD, stop here; some of the albums in stock here will prove next to impossible to find anywhere else.

### Atomic Books — "Literary Finds For Mutated Minds"

As for that person who's been a bit naughty this year, sandwiched between a smattering of comics, music, fiction and cult film classics, Atomic

to *Getting it On!*, this store's offerings will be plenty to keep you entertained. Don't forget to check out the rest of the store; you'll find not only *A John Waters Christmas CD*, but also some less overtly domineering titles, such as *A History of Hand Knitting*.

While there are entire shelves devoted to politics, Bettie Page and lowbrow art, you can also find literature by relatively conventional authors, such as David Sedaris, Charles Bukowski and Dave Eggers. Atomic Books also carries a number of signed editions of certain books, particularly those written by Baltimore's beloved John Waters.

### Cloud 9 — Women's Clothing

A branch of the same Cloud 9 that could once be found on the upper level of the Towson Town Center, this shop is a welcome break from the same old fashion chains. For winter-themed gifts, you can generally find plenty of bright knit hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, not to mention those incredibly useful mittens that convert to gloves.

### Oh! Said Rose — Women's Clothing & Accessories

This boutique is the sister store of Ma Petite Shoe, and you may run into some of the same cheerful, shoe-crazy staff. Flashy colored scarves, beaded handbags and eye-catching jewelry can be found interspersed with the buyer's fashion picks. Clothes created by local designers can often be found on the racks of this store.

Another feature of Hampden is a wide array of local art galleries. Wild Yam Pottery, Mud & Metal, and Paper Rock Scissors are a few examples. Carrying pottery, mixed-media, paintings and more, shops in this area are a great place to find some original works by local artisans.

If you are looking for something truly kitschy, the Avenue showcases a variety of antique shops and vintage clothing stores, such as Fat Elvis and Galvanize. The items you'll find at these stores will be one-of-a-kind gifts for friends with quirky tastes or older family members looking to reminisce. In case you're searching for a souvenir shop, Hometown Girl and Co. boasts that it is one of Baltimore's best.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SPACECHASE.NET

**Atomic Books is one of many unique places to shop in Hampden.**

Books has an intriguing collection of adult literature. Ranging from lavishly illustrated guides such as *The Art of Spanking* and a photographic *History of Lingerie* to more informative how-to manuals like *Guide*

## Buyer beware when holiday shopping online

priority mail or overnight express.

Another type of security comes to mind regarding online shopping. Many online shoppers, in addition to having shipping concerns, are worried about credit card safety. For the most part, big online stores and services like Paypal offer tight security regarding credit card or bank account information.

In addition, almost every major credit card company offers fraud protection. However, just this past month, "internet fishing" has become

a problem for a few big banks and even Paypal. Apparently, hackers can break into bank databases and steal your name

and e-mail address. Then they e-mail you pretending to be the bank, telling you to confirm your username and password for their account at a Web site. And if you do, they will steal your information, and use that to steal your funds. So be on guard against e-mails that ask you for your username or password.

Most banks or online paying services would not ask for confirmation through e-mail. A good way to be safe when using a credit card online is to apply for a credit card from a small bank — hackers generally target big banks — and use only that credit card for online purchases. This will protect against identity theft, and keeps all your online purchases

in one place so if there is fraud, you will catch it quickly.

Another downfall of online shopping is that product photos have the potential to be misleading. For example, last year, my roommate wanted to buy a pink harness for rock climbing. She saw a picture of a pink one at an online store and ordered it. However, when the harness arrived, it was blue. Disappointed, my roommate returned the blue one and ordered a pink one from another store. But when the second one arrived, it was also blue. In frustration, she called the store and asked why she got a blue one when the picture online clearly

displayed pink. The reply was that the pink was no longer manufactured and only the blue was available. The moral here is that if you are really bent on getting a certain color or some other feature, call the store before you order to avoid unnecessary transactions.

Right now, one of the biggest online stores is Ebay. It is especially known for its large variety of products and cheap prices. While it's true that most products on Ebay sell for less than retail, many sellers jack up the shipping cost to meet their reserve. For example, I have seen many sellers charging \$10 or \$15 for shipping a 50-cent CD through priority

mail. Therefore, to tell if a seller is trustworthy, check to see if their shipping charge is within reason. Also, check the seller's feedback and return policy before bidding on the product.

If a seller has more than five percent negative feedback, don't buy from that seller. Also, if a seller does not provide a photograph of the product, don't bid on it. It could be that the seller is just too lazy to put up a picture, or maybe there's something about the product he or she doesn't want you to see. In either case, you don't want to do business with that seller. Another thing you should always look over before you bid on Ebay is the currency in which you are bidding.

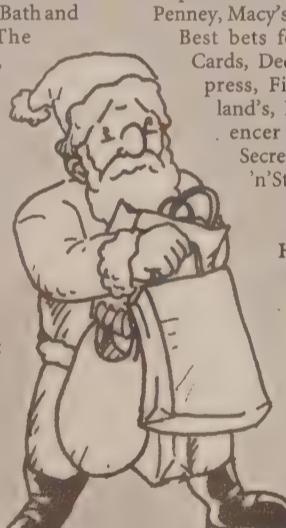
Sellers from around the world put up products on Ebay and use corresponding currencies. One time, I was bidding in pounds (GBP) and in a rush of excitement, I thought that pounds and dollars were about the same. Once I put down the bid, I realized that 20 GBP was about \$43. I had overbid by \$20! So always know the conversion rate before you bid.

Online shopping has many downfalls, but it does have the potential to be fun and relaxing. Before you log on this holiday season you should make sure you are an educated consumer.

Be prepared to be careful and meticulous about both security and the people and companies that get your business.

**JULIEN WANG**

**GUEST COLUMN**



**Harborplace and the Gallery**

Holiday Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Location: E. Pratt and Light streets, Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: (410) 332-4191

Best bets for gifts: Banana Republic Factory Store, The Body Shop, Charlotte Russe, EB Games, Gap Outlet, H & M, KB Toys, FYE, Off 5th Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet, Old Navy, Radio Shack, Sanrio

**The Mall in Columbia**

Holiday Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Location: 10300 Little Patuxent Pkwy, Columbia, MD 21044

Phone: (410) 730-3300

Department Stores: Hecht's, JC Penney, Lord & Taylor, Nordstrom, Sears

Best bets for gifts: Arden B., Champs Sports, Coach, Eddie Bauer, Fossil, Pacific Sunwear, People's Pottery, Rampage, Sephora

compiled by Melissa Artnak

**Arundel Mills Mall**

Holiday Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Location: 7000 Arundel Mills Circle, Hanover, MD 21076

Phone: (410) 540-5110

Best bets for gifts: The Banana Republic Factory Store, The Body Shop, Charlotte Russe, EB Games, Gap Outlet, H & M, KB Toys, FYE, Off 5th Saks Fifth Avenue Outlet, Old Navy, Radio Shack, Sanrio

**Towson Town Center**

Holiday Hours: Monday-Thru Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Location: 825 Dulany Valley Rd., Towson, MD 21204

Phone: (410) 494-8800

Department Stores: Hecht's, Nordstrom

Best bets for gifts: Abercrombie & Fitch, Anthropologie, Apple Store, Brookstone, Build-A-Bear Workshop, Delia's, Eddie Bauer, Gap Body, Godiva Chocolatier, KB Toys Express, The Sharper Image

compiled by Melissa Artnak

## FEATURES

## Museum to take a swing at new venue

BY JASON FARBER  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

During Babe Ruth's reign as baseball's Sultan of Swat, nothing was bigger than the Great Bambino. Nobody could match his big frame, his big appetite or the big numbers that he put up year after year.

Thus, the future plans for the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum are logical: it is getting bigger. Much bigger.

The museum, which is located downtown at 216 Emory St., in the house where Ruth was born, will soon begin moving to its new location at Camden Station, the defunct train station adjacent to Oriole Park. The 22,000 square-foot museum — which will open on May 7, 2005 — will be called "Sports Legends at Camden Yards," and will house over 10,000 artifacts pertaining to the history of sports in Maryland, as well as many high-technology, interactive exhibits.

"When we open the doors of the new museum, we will be the best sports museum in America," said Gregg Wilhelm, the museum's communications director.

Wilhelm's claim echoes the spirit of George Herman Ruth, a man who famously "called his shot" in the 1932 World Series by pointing to the centerfield bleachers — right before cranking a well-aimed home run that helped the New York Yankees on their way to sweeping the Chicago Cubs.

The museum currently takes up four row houses on Emory Street, about three blocks away from Camden Yards. One of the row houses the museum preserved was the former residence of Ruth's maternal grandparents. Ruth's parents



One exhibit at Sports Legends at Camden Yards, called "College Game Day," will highlight Hopkins lacrosse.

lived several blocks away in an apartment over the saloon they owned, which Babe's mother decided was an poor place to give birth to a child. If the Ruth family apartment was still standing it would be halfway between second base and centerfield at Oriole Park.

"With Sports Legends at Camden Yards, our mission as a museum reaches even further to showcase the entire history of Maryland sports — from the championships teams like Orioles and Ravens, to the collegiate champions like Hopkins and Maryland," said Wilhelm.

The museum will feature around

15 staged exhibits, one of which, "College Game Day," will include information on the long history of Johns Hopkins lacrosse. At the exhibit, visitors will be able to sit in front of a lacrosse goal and try to stop beams of light, which will fire at them like simulated lacrosse balls.

Another equally innovative exhibit will give guests the chance to tuck into a huddle with the Baltimore Colts offensive unit — mannequins, of course — and have plays barked at them by legendary quarterback Johnny Unitas.

An exhibit called "The Marching Band" will honor the Baltimore Colts marching band, which stayed in Baltimore after the Colts moved to Indianapolis in 1984 and before the Ravens played their first game in 1996. Next to the exhibit will be electronic footprint marks, which will light up in order to illuminate the band's routines.

This will all be a big step up from the current museum, which opened in 1974 to honor the paunchy, pug-faced hero who became a poster boy for "Pigtown," the nickname for the working-class Baltimore neighborhood that he grew up in.

At first, the museum only housed artifacts commemorating Ruth, such as a hymnal from his days at St. Mary's Industrial School, in which he scrawled, "World's Worse [sic] Singer, World's Greatest Pitcher."

The relics in the museum chronicle Ruth's 22-year career as a professional baseball player, which started when

he was bought by the Baltimore International League Orioles in 1914.

The team had to cut some of its top

players to make payroll, and Ruth

was sold to the Boston Red Sox for

\$25,000 — a price which also included

two other Orioles.

Over the years, the Babe Ruth

House became the official museum

for the Orioles and the official ar-

chives for the Colts, at which point it

garnered some of its most impressive

items — including the Colts' Vince

Lombardi Trophy from Super Bowl

V, and the Orioles' 1983 World Series

Trophy.

The Babe Ruth Birthplace and

Museum will remain open after

Sports Legends and Camden Yards

opens in May, but all of the memo-

abilia that doesn't honor Ruth will

be moved across Pratt Street to the

new site. Sports Legends will also

appeal to a wider audience, as it will

feature sports that aren't currently

being exhibited, such as indoor soc-

cer, horse racing, jousting

(Maryland's official state sport),

and, of course, lacrosse.

However, one staged exhibit at the

museum will be dedicated to Ruth,

one of the city's most prominent na-

tive sons, entitled "Babe Ruth: Ameri-

can Icon." While the Red Sox may

have broken the Curse of the Bambino

by winning the World Series in Octo-

ber, his allure will be guaranteed to

live on in his hometown, in appropri-

ately grandiose fashion.



This room in the Babe Ruth Birthplace honors the record-setting batter.

COURTESY OF GREGG WILHELM

## When girls smooching other girls can be bad

Damn it, I did it again. Now I guess I really do have to stop rolling my eyes and thinking, "stupid sorority girls" (damn, I am one, aren't I?) when I get questions from girls about hooking up with other girls.

I think my favorite time that I've had to deal with this issue is in high school when I was teaching health. A (very drunk) student of mine called one night and sobbed into the phone:

Drunk high-school girl: I just hooked up with (insert other very drunk girl's name here), am I a lesbian? My parents will KILL me.

Me: The unhappy person being woken up: Well, did you enjoy it?

DHSG: Um (sniffle) ... I don't (sniffle, sniffle, sniffle) remember.

Me: Well, why don't you go sober up a little then go back, kiss her again, and if you don't enjoy it, no worries. If you do, call me back and we can talk more, OK?

OK, so I'll admit it wasn't the most sensitive answer. In my defense, I was tired. But she didn't call me back, and she ended up dating a guy friend of mine a couple weeks later, so I guess she figured it out.

I guess I dislike these questions because, a) if you are a lesbian/bi-sexual/bi-curious/a L.U.G., good for you for figuring it out — maybe now you might be more tolerant of others (cough, stop using the word "gay" to describe things that aren't attracted to members of their own sex, cough). And, b) frequently, girls just get pulled into hooking-up with each other because they're generally not as homophobic as guys — but then some weird societal alarm goes off in their heads and I have to hear about it when it's blatantly obvious that they really do like guys.

So why do I get so many ques-

tions about hooking up with girls? I do not have a degree in psychology or any other relevant field at the moment, so attempting to answer this question from any technical background would be useless. In

health class, I used to explain the gradation theory, which is really nothing new to anyone. If sexuality is a line from zero to 10, ten being completely straight and zero being completely gay and five being bisexual, there are a very few people who actually fall on zero or 10.

Most people are dealing with some type of competing thoughts, no matter how rare or unappealing you say

they are. The more you flip out at this comment, the closer to the other end of the spectrum I would put you.

But do these little gradations make any difference in most people's lives? No. Does that mean that when you're hooking up with another girl (or guy) at a party it's because you're acting on some hidden and subconscious urge? Probably not — you could very well just be drunk. But it is something to keep in mind.

To demonstrate what generally happens, I'll refer to my own recent experience and reason for writing this column in the first place. As a rule, no, I am not attracted to girls.

If one came along that I was incredibly attracted to, I'd be willing to change my opinion, but at the moment, seeing another set of boobs



JESS BEATON  
ORGASMIC  
CHEMISTRY

Whether you've got a romantic query or a response to a previous week's article, we'd love to hear from you. To send questions anonymously, go to <http://www.jhunewsletter.com> and click "Contact Us." Or you can write to [sex@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:sex@jhunewsletter.com)

kept dancing, and I honestly just got bored. Pretty soon, we both reached for guys to entertain us with no hard feelings towards the other.

So what's the moral of the story? First, never get sucked into the triple kiss — or if you're a guy, don't trick

girls into a triple kiss. We all know what the outcome will be, as exemplified by my night in Montevideo. I would say that the only exception to this is if you really do want to hook up with someone of the same sex and just don't have the balls to do it. Hey, I guess we all need baby steps. Word of advice, though: Find someone with the same objectives, or you could both be in for an awkward surprise.

Secondly, a kiss can just be something to entertain yourself for a while — like dancing or any other activity, although it can make for some fun pictures (worthy of only the best walls of shame). But really, if you happen to be in the situation, either relax and go with it until you get bored, or remove yourself and go find someone of the opposite sex to reassure yourself with. Either way, don't flip out, it's not worth the time or energy.

Granted, we were in the middle of a dance floor, in a busy club, so nothing out of the ordinary happened. That's all it was — ordinary.

We made out, continued doing what

we were doing,

kept dancing, and I honestly just got

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## FEATURES



Alumna Deepthi Reddy volunteers her time at Shepherd's Clinic, a place dedicated to helping the uninsured residents of Baltimore since 1991.

## The skinny on two students giving back

BY CHRISSY ADKISON  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

In a food obsessed culture, trying to lose weight is a common problem for most Americans. Some diets tell you to increase fat intake while researchers say excessive fat clogs arteries. You then increase carbohydrates and Atkins tells you to think again. Shows like ABC's *The Biggest Loser* and VH1's *From Flab to Fab*, capitalize on this health problem.

Overcoming obesity, however, is a huge challenge for communities in Baltimore, where the obesity rate has steadily increased. One of the main reasons: 25 percent of residents lack any form of health insurance or government-sponsored health care assistance.

In order to help beat the system, the Shepherd's Clinic, a non-profit health center located on the corner of North Avenue and St. Paul Street, has provided healthcare to those uninsured citizens of Baltimore.

In 2003, the Shepherd's Clinic provided nearly 3,400 uninsured poor Baltimore citizens with affordable clinic visits. As of September

2004, the clinic had provided 2,764 patients with primary healthcare. These primary services such as cardiology, dermatology and internal medicine.

The Center for Social Concern works with the Shepherd's Clinic by providing students on campus with opportunities to volunteer at the clinic.

Juniors Colby Perkins and Rebecca Shields began volunteering at Sheppard's Clinic in the fall. After being there a few months, they came up with the idea of a weight loss support group called, "Lose to Gain," located at Shepherd's Clinic. It is designed for people to learn how to properly eat and exercise in order to achieve a desirable weight and maintain a healthier lifestyle.

The establishment of a weight loss and nutrition group at the clinic is a very significant step in helping the uninsured of Baltimore, comments Shields. "Those who are uninsured struggle more with finding treatments for health problems such as hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes. These health problems are usually caused from obesity, which is another health problem that the uninsured have difficulty keeping under control."

The girls established the weight loss support program a month ago; the group is divided into two weekly sessions. At the meetings, the group, consisting of mainly middle aged African American women, do "weigh-ins" and discuss goals for dieting and exercise, recipes, holiday eating and dining-out guidelines.

They, however, struggled with several obstacles along the way. Finding people to join the group was difficult in itself, as it was often maintaining contact with prospective group members.

"Fitting sessions into people's schedules so that they can come back every week to develop some sort of consistency has also been difficult," says Perkins.

However, they have seen rewards.

"The women in the group are very dedicated and are always pushing themselves harder. The women in the support groups truly care for and support one another through phone calls and exercising together. Through it all, the girls have had the greatest joy in seeing the physical results," comment Shields.

"We hoped that we would be able to have an impact on this problem, even if it was only upon twelve people," says Perkins.

You can participate in Lose to Gain by contacting Shields or Perkins at [rshields4@jhu.edu](mailto:rshields4@jhu.edu) and [ColbyPerkins@aol.com](mailto:ColbyPerkins@aol.com). If you would like to volunteer for the clinic contact Marlene Sorra, Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@shepardsclinic.org](mailto:volunteer@shepardsclinic.org), you can also volunteer as a referrals coordinator or desk manager if you are sticking around Hopkins in December and January. Call 410.576.9530 or visit <http://www.shepardsclinic.org>.

Acetaldehyde is rapidly converted to acetate by more enzymes. So rather than getting stored as fat, the main fate of alcohol is conversion into acetate. The amount of acetate formed is dependent on the amount of alcohol consumed. Dr. Pasquale claims that the sharp rise in acetate puts the brakes on fat loss.

Your body tends to use whatever

you feed it, and after a while becomes adapted to the nutrients you give it. Unfortunately, when acetate levels

rise, your body burns the acetate instead of burning body fat or carbohydrates. Remember back to Bio class: acetate is basically the same product of beta oxidation of fatty acids and glycolysis. In this process, the glucose turns to pyruvate and then to acetate. When you add in the acetate produced from alcohol, the body realizes that it no longer requires the metabolic work to produce the necessary acetate. In that sense, your body takes the same stance on acetate as some people on welfare: Why work when you're getting the reward for free?

As far as fat metabolism is concerned, alcohol can be worse than taking in straight carbohydrates (carbs). When you ingest carbs the body gets the chance to metabolize through various steps to form acetate

whereas acetate is formed from alcohol in just a few steps.

And if it's not bad enough, alcohol even has more calories than carbs. Haven't you ever wondered how low carb beers justify their labeling? The beers contain less than 100 calories even though they only have about 2.5 grams of carbs and 0.5 grams of protein. Using an estimate of about four calories per gram of carb and the same for protein, the beer would only have 12 calories! (If only dreams were true) So where do the other 80 or so calories come from? You guessed it, alcohol. The 12 grams of alcohol in your average low carb beer makes up the remaining 80 calories, at about seven calories per gram.

If you thought it couldn't get any worse, you were wrong. Before you pick up that beer, keep in mind that acute alcohol intoxication impairs protein synthesis and also disrupts the release of the anabolic hormones.

When it comes to partying and staying in shape, think twice about what you're drinking. And remember that a glass of water and a fun-loving attitude costs zero calories and makes you feel a lot better in the morning.

**MARCUS  
GONCALVES**

BODY BY MARCUS

The study has shown that even a small amount of alcohol has a large impact on fat metabolism. Eight men were given two drinks of vodka and lemonade separated by 30 minutes. Each drink contained about 90 calories. Fat metabolism was measured before and after consumption of the drink.

For several hours after drinking the vodka, whole body lipid oxidation, a common measurement for the amount of fat your body is burning, dropped by 73 percent.

That means that in addition to consuming the calories of many beers and mixed drinks, your body is actually slowing the breakdown of calories that you have already consumed. When alcohol is consumed, it easily passes from the stomach and intestines into the blood and goes to the liver. In the liver, an enzyme called alcohol dehydrogenase mediates the conversion of alcohol to acetaldehyde.

Acetaldehyde is rapidly converted to acetate by more enzymes. So rather than getting stored as fat, the main fate of alcohol is conversion into acetate. The amount of acetate formed is dependent on the amount of alcohol consumed. Dr. Pasquale claims that the sharp rise in acetate puts the brakes on fat loss.

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## PAID ADVERTISEMENT

### "Japanese American Experience During WWII"

Three panel speaker session  
Thursday, December 2 at 7pm  
Mudd Hall 26  
Cultural refreshments served.

## Moderated by:

Mr. Gerald Yamada  
Coordinator of the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition and a former EPA Principal Deputy General Counsel

## Speeches by:

## Dr. Norman Ikari

Veteran in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the US Army

## Mr. Paul Y. Tani

Veteran in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the US Army and active in counterintelligence during WWII

## Ms. Cherry Tsutsumida

Executive director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation

Sponsored by Japanese Student International

Co Sponsored by American Civil Liberties Union, Hopkins Students for Free Palestine, HSA Programming Collaboration Committee, Inter-Asian Council, Iranian Cultural Society, Middle Eastern Students Association, Organizacion Latina Estudiantil, Pakistani Student Association, Students Educating and Empowering for Diversity, Taiwanese American Student Association, Turkish Students Association

## Food, folks and fun for charity

Phi Mu organizes Eat-a-thon to help Children's Miracle Network

BY JEFF KATZENSTEIN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

They're pretty sure no one at Hopkins could touch Takeru Kobayashi's eating record of 53.5 hot dogs, but the sisters of Phi Mu would like to see just how close some Hopkins students can come. While satisfying this curiosity, they also hope to raise close to \$2,000 to help treat sick and injured children around the world.

The two goals may seem unrelated, but for the inaugural Eat-A-Thon on December 7, students can come to Levinger food court to munch on Quizno's subs, chips, cookies and soda while watching Hopkins athletes stuff their

faces with all the hot dogs, hard boiled eggs and baked goods they can handle.

The money raised from the \$5 a person ticket price and a few generous corporate donations will go to the Children's Miracle Network, a non-profit alliance of hospitals that gathers funds to treat some 17 million children each year with diseases such as cancer, pediatric AIDS, muscular dystrophy, heart disease, leukemia and asthma.

Each spring, Phi Mu raises close to \$2,000 for the Children's Miracle Network through their annual Pasta-Thon, an all-you-can-eat event that includes a full pasta dinner. Still, the sisters weren't content with just one

annual philanthropy event.

"We wanted to do a big fall event this year," explains sophomore Maxi Sherman, co-philanthropy chair for Phi Mu. Sherman and sophomore co-chair Rose Zulliger organized the event themselves after discussing the new event with the sorority's Executive Board over a month ago. The idea originally started as an eating contest, but as Zulliger explains, "We wanted people to have an incentive to go other than watching people vomit."

"One of the big things was working with Quizno's," says Zulliger. The national sandwich chain, known for its toasted hoagies, donated enough food to feed 350 people for the event.

In addition, Sodexho, which runs food services on the Homewood campus, donated all the hot dogs and soda for the Eat-A-Thon. The victor of the eating contest will win a free happy hour at Have a Nice Day Café.

"Sodexho and Quizno's were very helpful," Sherman says.

The event will run from 6-8 p.m. at Levinger food court. Tickets are \$5 in advance and at the door.

As Sherman explains, "We're hoping to make it an annual tradition."



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-LETTER

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## FEATURES



If you happen to stop by Cobber's Pub on Charles Street, heed this advice: Stay as far away from the rockfish and pineapple sandwich as possible.

## Cobber's is a down under blunder, mate

**T**hat was quite simply the strangest sandwich I have ever eaten. Rockfish, pineapple, bacon and American cheese. It was compared (not by me, I'm not this funny) to Napoleon's last defeat — like having the entirety of Europe descend upon your head, determined to defeat you. It was a special — I had to try it.

I did it for you, my readers. For your sake, I went to Cobber's Pub and suffered the most poorly conceived sandwich on the face of the planet. What was so wrong with it? For starters, American cheese is never a good idea. Never. Not even for nostalgia.

The rockfish was not bad, with subtle and unctuous flavors — though I didn't have an easy time figuring

that out through the strong combination of melting processed cheese food and pineapple. The bacon was my last hope — it was to be my saving grace. I know that this may sound blasphemous, but the bacon did not save this sandwich. There was nothing bacon could do — it just stood there tasting good by itself, and consistently reminding me of all the slightly less repellent combinations I could have been eating, like chocolate and bacon — that would have been less repellent. Also, this special sandwich came with fries on the side — always a plus — and with a small plate of pasta salad. I don't know why they gave it to me, seeing

as how pasta salad is barely half a notch above American cheese. Right now, the uneaten pasta salad is sitting in my refrigerator continuing to be uneaten. I'm in college — I don't throw food away.

Cobber's is a pub on Charles Street — south of the train station, and a little bit north of the American Urological Association. They have deals during Ravens games, they have pool tables, they have a decent place for meals upstairs and a bona fide bar down below. They also have a deli on the side where the suits can get their lunch.

Our waitress sat down at the table with us and had firm opinions about

the dishes. It's always a good sign when the wait staff will just tell you what's crap. Yet it's almost hard to believe she recommended that rockfish concoction to me.

I should be fair; they had a decent meatball sub. Their fries actually had enough salt on them, which you don't really find, well, anywhere. They had a special of pulled barbecued chicken with jalapenos on a quesadilla. This dish was not as monotonous as the other, but it was not a success. It tasted interesting, but had no emotional content whatsoever. Instead of thinking "oh my," to myself, I thought, "huh, what?" Which is really not the way a restaurant wants you to go with their food.

One final note — this is notionally an Australian pub. I don't really know what that means, since they have all sorts of typical Baltimore food. I guess it means that they have strange English versions of things — which they do — and at least something on the menu called "Aussie," which they do. The Aussie burger has about nine things on it, all of which I'd heard of, but not frequently.

I could list them for you, but I'll have more mercy in describing this thing than they do in serving it. So I'll just tell you that on this burger there are beets.

*Sine qua non:* whether celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or any other gift-giving extravaganza; it's absolutely essential to give a stellar present that best suits its recipient.

And here's how to do it:

First, before venturing into the retail jungle, arm yourself with a list of the people for whom you will definitely be buying gifts. By having a predetermined number of recipients, you'll save yourself from forgetting anyone, and prevent purchasing for people who hold little significance in your life.

Adjacent to or below each name on your list, jot down at least four of that person's character traits — is he funny? Does she like the color pink? This will aid you in identifying that

## Make your gift one that they'll cherish

**T**he holidays are approaching, which can only mean one thing: It's time to get shopping! But wait. Calm down. Compose your greedy self. Before you start fantasizing and creating a mile-long list of the items you simply must receive from Mom, Dad, brother, sister, grandma, Aunt Millie and the like, take a moment to consider what the holiday season's really about: cherished family memories, bonding with relatives, and, most importantly, giving a phenomenal gift that immortalizes you in the mind of its receiver.

Yes. That is correct. Far more important than receiving the new Gucci horse-bit boots in your Christmas stocking are the gifts you give to others.

And, even if you're not the most benevolent of individuals, preferring to procure rather than provide, furnishing a person with the optimal gift is simply another form of self-promotion, something of which we should all be quite fond.

To stress the importance of proper gift-giving, keep in mind a helpful maxim: You Are What You Give.

Thus, if you're the twit who gave your best friend Marge a generic gray sweater from the Gap, you're broad-



**CARTER CRAMER**  
HOP COUTURE

are caplets of any material, from fur to velvet to sequin. Marc Jacob's limited-edition line of gold and silver metallic handbags are equally trendy this season, and would irrefutably bring holiday joy to any fashionista on your list.

For guys, True Religion — the jeans brand which Jessica Simpson and women everywhere swear — has launched its men's line, stocking stores like Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus, Bloomingdale's and denim boutiques with four masculine versions of their traditional female washes.

However, if you're planning on purchasing your holiday gifts based upon trend advice from magazines or those roaming the malls, beware; though *Elle* may feature Sarah Jessica Parker sporting hers, and the girl with the ultra-chic Chanel tweed clutch has them in pink, UGG boots are not acceptable as gifts this season.

Among the other passé trends to be avoided are rainbow-colored Juicy scarves, UGG handbags, and Louis Vuitton rainbow print. All of these has-beens are so over they're practically antique — and not in a chic-vintage kind of way.

If these items are far too extravagant, or you're buying for a person on out of sheer obligation, opt for the classics: Godiva chocolates, a fruit basket from Harry and David or a set of monogrammed stationery.

## BSU helps both JHU and the city

BY MARY BANKS  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Approaching its 30th year as a Hopkins student group, the Black Student Union continues to be the backbone of the black community at Hopkins, as well as a liaison to the black community in Baltimore.

The BSU was founded in April of 1968 in the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the ensuing riots in Baltimore. The group has upheld the integrity of its mission over the years, and currently has between 80 and 90 active members.

According to its constitution, the BSU's purpose is "to serve as a positive influence in the academic environment of the Johns Hopkins University campus and to serve as an organizational base from which the concerns and needs of Black students can be addressed in the most efficient manner possible."

At least once a week, members tutor at Montebello Elementary, a local public school, to help students with their homework.

According to the program's mission statement, "The set-up of the after school program consists of an hour of homework help followed by free/play time in which the mentors play with the students."

The Black Student Union has also

participated in the Excel Youth Conference, which is a joint project between the BSU and JHU Admissions, which encourages Baltimore public school students to attend Hopkins.

"There is an idea amongst students in Baltimore — they do not see Johns Hopkins as an attainable school to attend. We want to break that conception," said Antoinette Rainey, the vice-president of the BSU.

In *Perspectives*, the Union's official newsletter, Rainey said, "In the Spring I hope to extend this conference into the Excel Program which would involve BSU members hosting small group rap sessions at local city high schools, giving students the heads up on applying to college and letting them know what they can do to improve their chances of getting in."

"A great number of them don't think they have the credentials to be accepted to this institution. Together we can positively influence many students and even get some of these promising students on campus."

The BSU encourages all people to participate in its organization. "The Johns Hopkins community should not feel intimidated . . . they should feel this is a place they can go to," said President Iyamide House.

"The BSU deals with a whole lot of issues that are also felt by other people in other communities. If people care

about issues . . . they should be here," said House.

"[Our] goal is to improve the number of African-American faculty," she said. She also said the BSU hopes to increase the number of courses at Hopkins that relate to black history.

The BSU is also intent on creating both a friendly academic and social environment for African-American students. According to Rainey, study groups are formed to help underclassmen excel at Hopkins. The group also hosts numerous fun events to keep students socially content, she said.

They also participate in the Big Brother and Sister program, in which an upperclassman pairs up with a freshman. This program was instituted, "so [freshmen] can have someone to talk to, to get advice from — [the upperclassmen] can be there for them as a support system," said Evehtie Chair Samantha Simpson.

As for the future, the BSU plans to host the Black Academy Awards, a ceremony which will celebrate, honor and give awards to recognize the achievements of African-American students, said Simpson.

This Friday, Dec. 3, the BSU will hold a formal at the Glass Pavilion, with tickets sold in advance. Every Sunday at 7 p.m., the BSU holds its meetings in the BSU Room, in the basement of AMR II.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## In a somber city, working for each laugh

Grad student and funnyman Adam Ruben is out to do biology by day, comedy by night

BY KATHERINE BREWER

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Adam Ruben, a mild mannered, fourth year biology graduate student, does not strike you as a comedian upon first meeting. But he is, performing this December at the D.C. Improv six times and organizing two comedy nights here on campus that feature some up and coming comedians, including Ruben, you might see on television some day.

Ruben got into standup comedy as a freshman at Princeton University. They had an undergraduate competition for stand-up and he decided to give it a try. He took notes from recordings of Jerry Seinfeld and George Carlin the week before.

"I had all these really bad math puns," he says. "I thought they were great; one of them worked on three levels," Ruben said. "I had scribbled all my jokes on my hand, but watching other people go before me I started scribbling things out and ended up just improvising about how nervous I was. I ended up winning second place."

The next year he won first place and started taking comedy more seriously. Senior year he emceed a show for a band and had to parley five minutes of material into 30 minutes because the band was late. "That made me realize that if I wanted to do this I had to get some more material."

At that point Ruben had never even been to a comedy club and looked on Yahoo Yellow pages for comedy clubs near his hometown of Wilmington, Del. He ended up at a place called Race Car Café and Comedy Club which he described as a "racing fan and redneck" club that didn't really want to listen to him.

"I got up there and there were only eight or ten people in the audience," he said. "They didn't want to listen to me, they wanted to have background noise. It was the longest ten minutes of my life."

He started going to legitimate comedy clubs in New York City. There, if he brought 10 or 15 people along with him to buy drinks, the owner would let him get on stage and perform without pay on Wednesday nights.

"When I got to Hopkins I tried to do comedy without telling anyone. I would leave lab, drive four hours to New York and get back at four a.m. I would only get four hours of sleep and then go to class."

The commute from Baltimore to New York wasn't working very well, so he started looking for comedy clubs in Baltimore. He did some shows at

Winchester's, which was the oldest comedy club in Baltimore, but after a few months Winchester's went out of business. At some shows there would be twenty comedians and ten audience members. "The Baltimore comedy scene is interesting. I've seen a lot of stuff that doesn't work," Ruben said.

The two big comedy clubs in Baltimore are the Baltimore Improv and the Baltimore Comedy Factory. The Baltimore Comedy Factory is cheaper, but is known to have a ruthless open mics. "I've talked to comics who got through four sentences before getting booted off stage," Ruben said. "I did one show there and said I'd never do it again."

Ruben has performed at the Baltimore Improv, a gig that included one of his strangest experiences in stand up comedy. "The [Baltimore] Improv would give homeless guys unlimited alcohol for them to perform," Ruben said with a straight face. "One time I tied for third with a drunk homeless man who mooned the audience."

Although Baltimore has a few smaller open mic nights at local restaurants, none are professional and most don't last very long. "The real comedy scene is in D.C." Ruben said. "The lack of comedy in Baltimore is similar to the lack of nightlife in general."

As a first year graduate student, Ruben made a tape of his comedy set and sent it to the Washington, D.C. Improv Club. Eight months later they called and asked him to perform at an open mic night com-



ADAM RUBEN'S FIRST STAND-UP AT A CLUB WAS AT A "RACING FAN AND REDNECK" BAR IN DELAWARE.

KATHERINE BREWER/NEWS-LETTER

petition. He won.

Since then he's done most of his work in D.C., with the D.C. Improv Club being his favorite, not only because they pay him but also because it's very professional and fun. "There hasn't been any big landmarks," Ruben said, "mostly just an assortment of jobs and competitions."

He usually doesn't get paid, but getting as many jobs as possible is the most important thing. "A job that doesn't sound that great might lead to another job that's worth it," Ruben said.

At Hopkins, Ruben has written twelve plays for Witness Theater including his

first, *Salad Shooters*, and did a comedy routine to raise money for 4K for Cancer, preformed at the Fall Festival Variety show and other odd jobs. This winter, Witness accepted his full length play for production.

Ruben is also the editor of *Grad News*, the graduate newspaper on

One time I tied for third place with a drunk homeless man who mooned the audience.

—ADAM RUBEN, GRAD STUDENT AND COMEDIAN

campus and is organizing a Comedy night for the Graduate Representative Organization (GRO), which features himself and four other stand up comedians including Keith Purnell, a comedian who has opened for Chris Rock and Bill Bellamy, Jason Lawrence and Pat Cunningham, two comedians Ruben knows through Princeton and Jared Stern, a favorite at the D.C. Improv Club.

Organizing this comedy night allowed me to hire people who have hired me and pick people that I really like," Ruben said.

Ruben recently won second place at the World Series of Comedy in Pittsburgh and is hoping to enter more competitions. For his long term future, Ruben isn't sure. "It would be nice to do biology by day and comedy at night."

He is also considering a Masters in the Fine Arts in playwriting and wants to continue writing comedy as well as performing it.

The GRO's Comedy Night is this Tuesday in the Arellano theatre at 8 p.m. This Intersession, Ruben is also offering a two credit course on standup comedy.

### ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

#### Ben Kingsland

BY MARISSA LOWMAN

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

Junior Ben Kingsland is well on his way to Broadway stardom. An accomplished actor and singer, he enjoys writing and participating in Outdoor Club trips with his girlfriend in his spare time. Although Kingsland, who is double majoring in Writing Seminars and Psychology, began taking piano lessons when he was three, he pursued singing so that he would not directly compete with his brother, who showed music talent at an early age. When he came to Hopkins, he was attracted to the Mental Notes at the O-show because they were funny and dressed crazily. He is currently the musical director. His responsibilities include running rehearsals, conducting concerts, and overseeing all song arrangements. "I try to run the group on a democratic basis," Kingsland said. "Every person has the same influence to pick new songs and members."

For him, running Mental Notes takes up as much time as classes, but he doesn't mind because he's committed to the group and enjoys performing. "I think that arts people at Hopkins shouldn't sell themselves short just because it's mostly known for premed," Kingsland remarked. "Hopkins is

fully of people who are engineers and will be for the rest of their lives, but this chance for them to have a creative outlet is just as much a part of them as engineering." The Mental Notes frequently take tours, although they have a limited budget. Last year, they toured in California and got tickets to be in the audience of *The Price is Right*. At one of the commercial breaks, Kingsland told Bob Barker that the Mental Notes wanted to sing on the show, but Barker would only give them thirty seconds of air time.



which wasn't enough time to sing an entire song. Although Kingsland asked for time to confer with the group about singing part of a song instead, Barker said "this kid's trying to run the whole damn show," so they weren't ultimately able to perform live. However, this remains a memorable moment for Kingsland. Unlike some a cappella groups, the Mental Notes do not participate in competitions. "It's all about having fun and

singing," Kingsland said. However, he would like to see the group perform at more events, such as department holiday parties, which help the group raise funds.

In addition to singing, Kingsland has acted in several Barnstormers productions, most recently in the musical *A Chorus Line* last spring, which he enjoyed because his character was very reserved. "Most of what I've done is comedic. It forced me to think about the other side of acting. My abilities as a comic actor improved by actually getting into the emotional side of a character instead of just fooling around," said Kingsland.

He didn't plan on acting when he came to Hopkins. "As a pre-frosh, I didn't really see theater going on, so I had resigned myself to writing and music until I started taking acting classes with Astin and found this sort of secret society." He discovered through these classes that there is more to acting than making funny faces and saying funny lines. "As an actor, anything is possible that you can think of and make yourself believe. With singing, you're constrained by your natural range."

He plans to pursue theater professionally and wants to either join a traveling company or move to a city to "build up his chops" when he graduates. He will be performing in the Mental Notes concert on December 4th and in the musical *Gigi*, which opens at the Vagabond Theater in early January.

## Art therapist's works depict B'more valley

BY JESS OPINION

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

touches but exist as accents rather than focal points.

In contrast, "Window Still Life #4" (1994 - 2000) returns to the lightness of the first two paintings of the group. A shadow box contains a view in which Bergland paints sky and land with loose daubs of color. A barely-visible spider web etched in blue-gray and a pair of elaborate postcards framed in bold, bright peach make for a striking contrast. The last painting in the group, "Window Still Life #5" (1995 - 2004), contains big, bold blocks of color. A ruby red cardinal perched on the edge of a slate blue roof adds a splash of color to the view, a shadowy corner of self-contained space. A detailed picture of a sober, serious boy in overalls stands on the windowsill, framed in the same bold, bright peach that appears in "Window Still Life #4." The picture of the boy centers the painting and masterfully draws the eye of the viewer.

In "Viola Walsh's Stone House" (2002 - 2003), a Baltimore evening sun serves as the backdrop for an arrangement of kitschy flowers, magazine clippings, and personal artifacts overlaid with a sheet of Plexiglass that bears a crude sketch of the outline of a house. "Viola Walsh at Home" is all bold colors and stark lines. A tablecloth of aqua and orange fronds forms a marked contrast to the dull gray and orange walls that recede into black and blue-green shadows. The focus on the surroundings almost overwhelms the subject. Bergland paints her with an eye towards her mind and spirit rather than her body. As a result, her face bears the blurry quality of a picture taken through a Vaseline-smeared lens. Both paintings are fun and quirky, but they also exhibit character and depth.

Bergland's drawings and paintings feature views of a world far removed from the Baltimore of glossy downtown and gritty Greenmount. However, one of the last paintings in the series amusingly ties the Jones Falls Valley to the rest of the city. A coolly elegant winter scene done with a precise hand features a cottage to the left and a wall to the right, both painted in shades of brown and gray. A huge tree in the center dominates the painting with slashing black branches that reach out of the painting and blend into the weathered oak that serves as the canvas. Suspended from the sky is a glowing orb that illuminates the entire painting.

Is it a bird? A plane? No. It's... a Pepsi sign. Specifically, "Pepsi Sign, Winter" (2003).

## Throat Culture comedy is sketchy

Hopkins sketch comedy troupe's show full of hit-or-miss jokes

BY ISHAI MOOREVILLE

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

the premise had great potential, the climax seemed to choke off some of the laughs instead of letting them erupt.

In one of the most original pieces, Levy played a bum in central park who sells private time with a small piece of earth for \$2 to bystanders (including choice of musical accompaniment). As his customers walk by, Levy treats us to some hilarious bits where he convinces them to buy the plot, after which we are treated to the unique ways in which each customer uses their time.

Seniors Michael Levy and David Fishman are the brain-trust behind TC and are also two of its more inspired members. Their showcase began with a video depicting all of TC's members pretending to audition for an X-Men movie, each with their own special "super power." Since TC has about 26 members, some of them funnier than others, the need for inclusion sometimes won out over the need for laughs. Among the funnier moments was Fishman's depiction of a man whose super power was an "Iron Fist." In a later tryout a student claimed to have a magnetic crotch and the Iron Fist plunges into him fist first, a great bit of coordinated slapstick.

In an excellent, but somewhat overdrawn video piece, Fishman and Ken Levin play two polar opposite roommates. We are treated to a series of four conversations between the two, one for each year of college, and slowly see the transformation of each into the other. Fishman starts as a jock football player, confident and girl-hungry, while Levin is a dorky nerd more interested in academics and video games. Over

the years, however, Fishman loses his confident optimism in regards to women and by senior year shows a change in his sexual preferences. Ken also loses his academic drive, turning into a depressed alcoholic who no longer cares about school. The chemistry between these two was tremendous. Both have a knack for comedic timing and intonation that is hard to acquire.

The main problem with TC's show was length. At almost three hours long, the show ran way too long for a collection of comedic skits.

For the sake of brevity, TC would be best suited by limiting their skits to shorter time-periods and highlighting those with the most comedic talent.

figuring out ways to maximize the humor out of their dramatic setups.

Still, TC has a lot of great talent, young and old, and it is always comforting to know that there are students out there ready to make fun of anything and everything. Results are still pending on Throat Culture, but the preliminary prognosis reads funny with a few spouts of failed jokes.

# Kinsey delves into sexuality issues

BY PATRICK KENNEDY  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

Just about every advertisement for director Billy Condon's new film, a biography of controversial Indiana University biologist Alfred C. Kinsey, bears the same, simple mantra: "Let's talk about sex." Since any mention of sexuality today is greeted either with puritanical reproach or voyeuristic enthusiasm, such an overt suggestion would seem an invitation to chaos. But *Kinsey* is nothing more and nothing less than what its driving motto implies—an honest, unashamed discourse on human sexuality. For once, the movie industry has delivered a piece that not only avoids the extremes of smut and chastity, but tackles the nature of sexual activity with academic impartiality.

Yet *Kinsey* is more than a tempered analysis of intercourse. In its own right, it is an elegant film, a rare near-narrative piece that both exalts and criticizes its subject. There is plenty of information, complemented by a few likely myths, about the life of Alfred Kinsey (played by Liam Neeson) in Condon's new release. In any case, *Kinsey* portrays a sharp conflict between science and convention, physical love and cultural norms, that is worthy of attention roughly half a century after its subject's death.

The mind behind two revolutionary scientific volumes, Alfred C. Kinsey, whose initial studies concerned the gall wasp, was the product of a strict, stifling upbringing. Fortunately, Condon's film dwells on these minor, though valuable notes. As *Kinsey* depicts it, Kinsey's aversion to absolute abstinence was a mode of rebellion against his uptight father (John Lithgow), a professor and minister who flouted his family and railed against modern technology. However, before he turned to sex research, Kinsey met his future wife, Clara McMillen (Laura Linney), a promising biology student herself.

In all honesty, Liam Neeson was an unlikely choice for playing Kinsey, a nerdy bisexual in real life. It seems that neither Mr. Neeson's performance nor Mr. Condon's script capture all of the professor's eccentricities. Aside from that, the acting in *Kinsey* is as good as it gets. *Kinsey*



Liam Neeson and Laura Linney star in Billy Condon's film about the man who started the sexual revolution.

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becomes, in Mr. Neeson's hands, a man ferociously dedicated to his work, but not without a boyish, occasionally oblivious sensitivity. Though a clear departure from the courageous lothario he played in *Schindler's List*, Neeson's performance works beautifully.

Later, Prok (as Kinsey was called by his students) initiated a course on sexuality at the University of Indiana. Determined to improve scientific knowledge of this formerly taboo area, the entomologist turned anthropologist set out to collect data on intercourse and sex patterns.

With a team of assistants, Kinsey conducted thousands of interviews regarding sexual activity. His later life, captured believably by Mr. Condon, was a roller coaster ride between professional acclaim and public outrage, culminating in an early death.

While films like *A Beautiful Mind* and *Ray* dwell mostly on the emotional impact of genius, *Kinsey* lends equal weight to Prok's work and personal life. However, *Kinsey's*

closest relationships were just as turbulent as his career. On one hand, Neeson's Kinsey finds a true companion in Linney's Clara, well played with complementary doses of intimacy and resolve. On the other, he is a man whose belief in science leads him to sexual experimentation, including an affair with his personal assistant, Clyde Martin (Peter Sarsgaard).

Yet the uninhibited rigor that nearly destroys Kinsey is never remedied. Even when Clyde, who in all the earlier scenes is a model of nuanced, understated drama, tearfully questions Kinsey's sexual morality near the end, Neeson's character remains the man he has always been—dogged, curious and pragmatic. Like its protagonist, *Kinsey* views sex more as a product of human expression than anything else. Whenever Condon feels headed towards a platonic insight, his film turns abruptly back to carnal knowledge in its most scientific manifestation.

It is easy to accuse Mr. Condon of heaping greatness on a subject whose ideas are still reviled by certain sectors of the public. While *Kinsey* does view reserved morality as ultimately stifling, it is not a promotion of sex, but a statement of ambition. His life's work greeted with disgust, Mr. Neeson's Kinsey is angered by an America that rejects the knowledge he wants to spread. Whatever his faults, Kinsey was a man who could handle the most shocking truths.

When asked by a reporter if there are plans to make a film based on one of his books, Neeson's Kinsey completely disregards the idea. Indeed, this is one of the movie's most flagrant ironies, considering that Mr. Condon has made both a coherent film and an excellent intellectual statement out of Alfred Kinsey's life. As we watch *Kinsey*, we are drawn into a world where the power of inquiry and the value of human connection become evident in the most subtle, delicate ways.

## National Treasure is way too predictable

BY MARISSA LOWMAN  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

If you're interested in taking a crash course in American government or following a drawn-out, somewhat predictable adventure to find lost booty, *National Treasure* will deliver. Although this Disney movie is action-packed, it has many low points in between. The motivation of the characters is often unclear because they seem to change what they want as easily as a chameleon changes its color. Although the movie seems to have been intended for a young audience, its heavy use of historical documents and landmarks makes it inaccessible to the average child.

Nicolas Cage plays Ben Gates, a somewhat crazed history buff and inheritor of a family legacy that claims to have a clue to the biggest treasure ever buried. After Gates and his team discover a pipe containing a riddle in a wrecked ship uncovered at the Arctic Circle, they are determined to steal the Declaration of Independence, which supposedly contains an invisible treasure map on the back. Gates opposes stealing the map, but believes that he will be protecting it. He has surprisingly little trouble accomplishing this task with his computer-savvy sidekick Riley Poole (Justin Bartha). He slips easily through the back door of the National Archives building with a fake I.D. and manages not to encounter a single guard. On the way, he meets Abigail Chase (Diane Kruger), a National Archives conservator, who he takes along as a kind of hostage.

Gage acquires everything he desires too easily in the movie: the

Declaration of Independence, the girl, his father's respect and imminent fame. The movie seems to emphasize the fact that he is deserving of the treasure as a way to justify his often split-second decisions. Cage's facial expression, an intense scowl, remains the same throughout the entire movie, which closes off his character to the audience. His previous roles in movies such as *Adaptation* and *The Family Man* better demonstrate his ability to convincingly portray a character's emotions.

The use of symbolism from Freemasonry provides an intriguing but underdeveloped side plot. The notion of members of the Free Masons, including some of the Founding Fathers, leaving clues across the East Coast and beyond, is compelling enough to keep the plot rolling, but the way that Gates is able to piece everything together so quickly seems to defeat the purpose of the painstaking efforts the men went to

in order to conceal the clues. Perhaps Gates' capability alludes to the idea that Gates was the person meant to discover the treasure. His skills in recognizing the significance of the symbolism on a one hundred dollar bill makes him a little too smart, as well as quirky. The use of historical artifacts in a present day context provides a somewhat clever twist on modern adventure movies, but by no means compares to classics like the *Indiana Jones* trilogy.

The movie could also benefit from a more mysterious title. Would any true Disney movie not deliver its promise of a happy ending—Gates finding the treasure? Regardless, *National Treasure* has been a huge hit, taking in \$33.1 million on the way to a number one showing at the Thanksgiving box office. If you don't mind a predictable story and some weak acting, *National Treasure* may be worth its weight in gold.

## I came, I Saw, I demanded a refund

BY DAVID AVRUCH  
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-Letter

*Saw*, a grisly horror flick directed by Australian newbie James Wan and starring Cary Elwes and Leigh Whannel, is an exercise in bad taste and cheap scares. In it, Dr. Lawrence Gordon (Elwes) and a guy named Adam (Whannel) wake up to find themselves chained to the wall in a nasty bathroom with a dead body between them and no escape. Together they realize that they're about to be the latest victims of the serial killer known as "Jigsaw." The murderer who doesn't actually murder, Jigsaw likes to let his victims kill themselves and/or one another by the most disgusting means possible. Like Kevin Spacey's character in the movie *Se7en*, Jigsaw is something of a moralist, and he selects his victims based on what he perceives to be the failures in their lives. He provides them an escape option that forces them to confront these personal shortcomings, but gives them only two hours to make it out alive. Unlike Spacey in *Se7en*, though, Jigsaw is preachy, and comes off as a haranguer and a bully.

Adam's role is another problem altogether. Jigsaw's reasons for holding him captive are sketchy at best, and he is not provided an escape option like Dr. Gordon. It seems as though he's just a vehicle for Dr. Gordon's self-actualization; isn't Jigsaw supposed to

have a methodology? Plot-holes like this one abounded, and were too salient to pass unnoticed.

The good scenes were the ones that depicted the deaths of other victims of Jigsaw's madness, like the fat man who cut himself good in a cage full of barbed wire. Unfortunately, just when things are getting freaky, the director overdoes it by spinning the camera around faster and faster until you're more physically nauseated than creeped out. There were, however, a couple scenes (one involving a tripwire and shotguns) that really hit the spot.

In general, the movie was laughable at best. But there really was something comical about the way a scene of intense struggle would cut straight to pathetic Dr. Gordon, sitting sadly next to a broken urinal. Not even Danny Glover as an obsessive ex-cop was able to save this movie, though his performance was nothing to write home about, either. All in all, don't waste your money ... until *Saw 2*, which is now in production and is rumored to be starring his holiness Eminem, hits theaters sometime next year.

## New Vibrations

Atta Strata —  
*Tongues to Divide*  
Self-Released  
Dec. 2004



Atta Strata's debut record sounds something like a techno-infused Velvet Underground solo — with screaming. Their unique sound has developed over the past few years from a punk indie band to an improvisational collective.

Sometimes noisy and sometimes minimalist, the band is composed of Josh Atkins (guitar), Greg Druck (drums) and Mike Munik (laptop), all Hopkins seniors, and Greg Pizzoli, a graphic design student from Millersville, Pa.

"Atta Strata formed when my other band broke up kind of because one of the kids stopped liking music and started liking drugs," says Atkins. "We started out playing like weird rock music, punkish kind of, really composed stuff, except for Mike, who doesn't like to compose. And then I don't know if we started getting lazy or what, but we stopped writing songs and started just coming to practice and just playing."

The resulting music is mind-warping, a noisy meditation soundtrack for the open-minded listener. The easiest songs to listen to are the ones where Munik and Atkins send various bips and pops through their mass of synthesizers and gizmos, while the most interesting ones are those that include massive feedback, loud and almost tribal drums, with Pizzoli screaming something like "This is the plague! This is the plague!"

Dancing to this music, however, is not recommended, as the subsequent movements are much like a marionette controlled by a five year old. The album is available through the band members, or at their first show at the Ottobar, on Monday, Dec. 8.

—Emily Cohan

Lee Coombs  
*Breakfast of Champions*  
Fingerlickin' Records  
Oct. 13, 2004



The much anticipated new Lee Coombs' album, *Breakfast of Champions*, is a pumping break beat record guaranteed to stir up any dance floor.

It is strikingly similar to *Eargasm* by labelmates and collaborators Plump DJ's. Most of the songs contain the phat bass lines listeners have come to expect from Coombs, especially in "Obsessional Rhythm" and "Lick the Frog."

The Coombs' remix of the New Order classic "Crystal" is one of the album's strongest tracks, but it sounds exactly like Plump DJ's "Pray for You," with the same 80s vocals and floating synthesizers and guitars.

The album's main vice is that it is

pretty dancy, meaning you hear a lot of techno sounds from the mid and late 90s. In songs like "Shiver" and the title track, you get the kind of annoying high-hats and claps that make it sound like an amateur DJ made the songs using a demo beat tracker.

But the rest of the album is first rate fun, and it wouldn't be at all surprising if American favorites like DJ Icye and Crystal Method remix some of the songs into future sets and albums.

—Emily Cohan

Ditty Bops —  
*Ditty Bops*  
Warner Brothers  
Oct. 26, 2004



The best reason to listen to the Ditty Bops is not because they're rising stars in a sea of unoriginal grime. It's not that they've been universally lauded where they've already sunk in their feet on the West Coast. No, the best thing about the Ditty Bops is how they make you feel. Listening to the female songwriting duo's self-titled debut album is a sock hop between folk and country that carries you to an island of musical bliss. It's a strange mix of vaudevillian whimsy and smooth melody in one of the year's most refreshing albums.

Amanda Barrett and Abby DeWald have packed the album with impressive musicianship and pure harmony that won't let go. Their songs rarely slow to less than a clipping pace, but the album flows seamlessly — we're all just along

for the ride in a Ditty Bop world. And for the perfect icing on the musical cake, the lyrics are bittersweet and clever. On the guitar-picking romp "Wishful Thinking," you find yourself caught between dancing and trying to memorize the lyrics: "Why can't little kids tie their shoes / Why can't white people play the blues / Why can't I fall in love with you / It must be because of the season."

The Ditty Bops have translated their eclectic musical style and artistic panache into a dangerously addictive album.

—Francesca Hansen

Split Lip Rayfield —  
*Should Have Seen It Coming*  
Bloodshot  
Sept. 28, 2004



Some would say that it is a short step from the three-chord pound-outs of punk rock to the three-chord twang of Appalachian-style old-timey music. Do punks and hillbillies actually think alike? Does speed-heads and moonshiners have something in common?

Kansas-based alt-country band Split Lip Rayfield sure makes it seem that way. *Should Have Seen It Coming*, the foursome's fourth LP, is full of post-punk bluegrass numbers ("Truth & Lies," "Redneck Tailgate Dream"), but they let more straight-ahead jukebox country numbers show off their versatility ("Hundred Dollar Bill," "Down South Sally"). The vocals are polished old-style Nashville, and the only rhythm section is some mandolin-chop from

Wayne Gottstein and Jeff Eaton's sumptuous lines on the "gas tank bass" and instrument he fashioned out of the insides of a 1965 Ford. Banjo player Eric Mardis plays both spindly three-finger accompaniments and bluesy flatpicked solos.

*Coming* is as solid as a straight-ahead old-time record as it is cheeky like a nose-ringed vandal. Its appeal is as much Memphis as San Diego. And with most songs blasting out and clocking in under two minutes, it might even be too punk to handle.

—Robbie Whelan

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM](http://WWW.MOVIEWEB.COM)

Johnny Depp and Freddie Highmore are father and son in Marc Foster's rollicking redux of the Peter Pan story.

## Finding Neverland has wings

BY MASON MARCUS

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

While Captain Hook may never have been able to kill Peter Pan, the last half-century of reincarnations have come pretty darn close. Which is why, as the storm of biopics descends upon Oscar season, it's refreshing to see a movie piloted with enough skill that it kept away, at least in part, from the dangerous pitfalls of artistic license and historic viability.

The last decade hasn't treated Pan very well. Spielberg's *Hook* (1991), resorted to a "What if?" plot spiraling Pan and the rest of the characters into a world of cell phones and corporate business, an interesting twist, but a little heavy handed at times. The next Pan feature, P.J. Hogan's *Peter Pan* (2003) depended on cinematic gimmicks to cover up its lack luster acting. Glen Casale's and Gary Halvorson's raw translation of the Herbert Brenon classic fell short of the original, well, because it wasn't the original.

In *Finding Neverland*, Director Marc Foster (*Monster's Ball*) has adopted Alan Kneale's play, *The Man Who Was Peter Pan*, the story of the eccentric Victorian J.M. Barrie, author of *Dear Brutus*, *The Little White Bird*, and most notably, *Peter Pan*.

The story begins in the wake of the failure of Barrie's (Johnny Depp) play, and in the midst of a disastrous marriage with a dispassionate and disinterested wife (Radha Mitchell). He is an eccentric and a misfit; unwilling to join his wife in their theater box, he watches the opening of his flop play, *The Admiral Crichton*, at a side exit, peering out from behind cherry red curtains. It's a fitting image for the man, and his play. Overtly fantastic on the surface, but subtly complex and troubling underneath.

While his married life is perhaps only a side plot and deeply undeveloped, Depp still does well to provide a portrait of the artist as unsympathetic, or at the very least, unaware of his marriage. Of course, he gets a little help from Mitchell, though a nonchalant wife isn't exactly a humdrum of a role. But then again, playing eccentric characters has become a norm for Depp. Barrie's transformation begins when he meets the Davies boys and their young widowed mother, Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Kate Winslet) in a park in London. His relationship with the boys and their mother, based on nonsensical games and imaginative illusions help the struggling artist and the audience escape the tedium of his

oppressive marriage. It is this newfound family that aids Barrie in delivering on stage the brainchild of his imagination, *Peter Pan*.

In many ways *Finding Neverland* is a formulaic tearjerker. It employed all the classic elements — an understated love story, a troop of young boys with British accents, Julie Christie playing Davies' protective and domineering mother and even Dustin Hoffman as Barrie's American financier, producer and insightful father figure. As a rule, not a tear was shed unless a morally uplifting scene followed it. And everyone got to see to Neverland.

Was Barrie's real life that brilliant? No, but then again, that's why the movie isn't a biopic. The script doesn't cover enough of Barrie's life either faithfully, or in depth enough to make it a biography. It's also not just a re-gurgitation of the classic *Peter Pan* narrative — the movie reeks of Hollywood. Its dialogue is fairly scripted, the music is lush and supportive, and the cinematography at times is gorgeous. The movie doesn't try to be too informative or too provocative. For a movie about never growing old, the *Finding Neverland*'s reinvention of a classic story is refreshing and enjoyable.

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## Alexander the not-so great

BY DAN BERNIE

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

The historical record on Alexander the Great is jaw-dropping. Military victory seemed almost effortless, only a matter of birthright to the fierce Macedonian with titanic goals of world conquest. However, the word "great" does not apply to Oliver Stone's epic portrayal of the young King Alexander.

Because Stone is such an accomplished director (the past two decades have found him making such gems as *Any Given Sunday*, *Nixon*, *Natural Born Killers*, *The Doors*, *Wall Street* and *Platoon*) it is interesting to consider that maybe Oliver Stone meant for the film *Alexander* to be a sort of sophisticated satirical essay on the greatness of man. In this light, the film seems quite masterful.

Further evidence of some sort of indirect, ironic thesis is revealed by the narrator Ptolemy I, played by Anthony Hopkins. Ptolemy recounts Alexander's imperfections with ease, often fast-forwarding through the details of his triumphs, such as his being hailed as a god after conquering Egypt. After all, Mr. Stone could have easily included Alexander standing before a pyramid, being crowned in front of all, but he didn't. Many more times, the audience must fill in the greatness of Alexander, and watch in dismay as he makes his way through a perilous, tragic life. The audience is also privy to the many dissenters along the way, who question Alexander's every decision. In fact, not once does the audience see Alexander rule with ease.

The acting is superb, especially Val Kilmer's portrayal of King Phillip II. Kilmer should receive an Oscar for the supporting role. Angelina Jolie also commanded her role brilliantly

as Queen Olympias. Colin Farrell was good, though it is possible his being cast in the role was a conscious decision to draw attention away from Alexander's character (especially with the likes of Brad Pitt, Russell Crowe and Mel Gibson being the measuring sticks for epic heroes these days).

Hephaestion, played by Jared Leto, is underdeveloped for a story so much about the bond between Hephaestion and Alexander. With no real foundation to their relationship, the audience is expected to accept the two as devoted to one another. More background information is given about Alexander's first wife, Roxane (played by Rosario Dawson), though the role is surely not as influential in Alexander's life. Anthony Hopkins was more than adequate as Ptolemy I, though it is easy to wonder why he took the part.

The cinematography is also brilliant, with amazingly realistic computer-assisted sets. Unfortunately, the United States is hardly the place for an epic that questions its heroes. In fact, an epic that doesn't have the audience whipped into a frenzy about

leaping attacks and one-in-a-million odds doesn't seem to cut it. Add overbearing homoeroticism and a mother out of a Hitchcock thriller, and that's three strikes. Oliver Stone's epic *Alexander* is a wonderful movie, just not about general "greatness," which audiences may be expecting. The tone is more of a tragic epic.

For the average cinephile, the problem lies with expectation. *Alexander* just doesn't make the audience feel like they are on an adventure. Even references to romantic historical characters such as Aristotle are lost, because the film never introduces Aristotle as a character. Aristotle is merely a name. In fact, when Aristotle is declared "wrong" numerous times by Alexander, it serves to undermine what faith the viewer has in the greatness of the ancient philosopher.

After much thought and excessive debate with friends and family, I give *Alexander* a rating of 86 out of a possible 100, but I include a warning. For those in search of an epic of the same scale and quality as *Braveheart*, *Gladiator* or *Troy*, this one does not satisfy.

COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.HOLLYWOOD.COM](http://WWW.HOLLYWOOD.COM)

Elliot Cowan and Colin Farrell contribute to the not-great *Alexander*.

## Roth speculates about Lindbergh

BY PATRICK KENNEDY

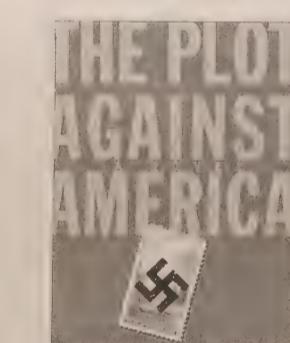
THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

In his latest work of literature, Pulitzer-Prize winner Philip Roth presents us with a morbidly fanciful re-imagining of World War II politics. The 1940s of *The Plot Against America* are not the age of Roosevelt and American internationalism. Instead, Roth's novel opens with aviation hero Charles Lindbergh, the leader of a coalition of isolationist Republicans, in control of the White House. By no means a champion of democracy abroad, the Lindbergh administration signs "understandings" with Hitler and his allies to keep the U.S. out of European affairs. But Americans have more to worry about than the Republicans' foreign policy. Already on record for making anti-Semitic statements, Lindbergh and his officials take steps to undermine Jewish communities in the United States, inspiring the atmosphere of perpetual uncertainty that saturates *The Plot Against America*.

Just as *The Human Stain* was Mr. Roth's indictment of hypocritical moralism, *The Plot Against America* is a savage dissertation on the politics of victimization. For any history enthusiast, the idea of Lindbergh as an oval office demagogue is nearly irresistible. Although Roth is meticulous, even trifling in his use of historical data, he is not content to leave *The Plot Against America* as a mere account of an alternate reality. Instead, we see the injustices of Lindbergh's years in office through the eyes of a Jewish family (named, not coincidentally, the Roths)

living in middle-class Newark.

The book itself, narrated by Mr. Roth in a fictional first person, is a mixture of human tragedy and social analysis. Looking back on his childhood during the Lindbergh era, Roth's narrator conjures a drama packed with emotion. His parents, both patriotic Jewish Americans, mute their outrage as their president



incorporate personal accounts. However, I can't imagine a better way to hit the range of emotions that his novel warrants. Despair, loathing, pride, and anger all run high in Lindbergh's U.S. There are even quite a few parallels, intentional or not, to today's electoral climate, from a simple-talking president in a flight suit to an antagonistic, super-partisan media.

If anything, *The Plot Against America* gives true definition to both the remote idea of mass hysteria and the elusive concept of genuine patriotism. In Roth's revision of history, the U.S. government is not explicitly fascist or anti-individual — actually, it's far from it. More dangerously, public democracy itself has become a weapon — a means of deception, division and prejudice wielded by corrupt leaders.

For those readers more interested in hard fact, *The Plot Against America* also features an appendix of historical figures and speeches — with some particularly insidious anti-Semitic comments by Lindbergh and Henry Ford. Roth may not give greater dimension to Lindbergh, Roosevelt or any of the other famous Americans he writes into *The Plot Against America*. Yet his ability to construct a memorable, sensitive tale, a survey of the best and worst of U.S. patriotism as comprehensive as possible, is a sufficient reaffirmation of his strength as a writer. Where other authors have portrayed an apocalyptic future, Roth hands us a pessimistic past that is, at the end of the day, just as bleak.



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## your Horoscope



**ARIES:** (MARCH 21-APRIL 19) Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers wrote "Mary Jane's Last Dance" about ballroom dancing, not drugs. But you can try both at once.



**TAURUS:** (APRIL 20-MAY 20) Ridge's is the best kind of Lay's potato chip, even though it doesn't have an apostrophe. It should, though, because an apostrophe is like a ridge.



**GEMINI:** (MAY 21-JUNE 20) Illegitimate children fathered by rapper ODB will form their own musical group as a tribute to their father's exploitation of women.



**CANCER:** (JUNE 21-JULY 22) Son, you've got to recognize that sometimes, you can save money on tattoos by stabbing yourself with a pen repeatedly in the arm.



**LEO:** (JULY 23-AUGUST 22) Eric Gagne, as we know him, will be exposed as a horse disguised in rec specs and a Dodgers uniform. But Bud Selig won't care.



**VIRGO:** (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22) Will burning your books at the end of finals be a stress reliever? Yes, but only if you jump in the fire, because you're as useless as the books.



**LIBRA:** (SEPTEMBER 23 - OCTOBER 22) Succeed just this once and you won't have to try, try again like your grandfather always told you. You know what I'm talking about.



**SCORPIO:** (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 21) Him rhymes with "skim," which is the kind of milk you drink. It also rhymes with "grim" which is the kind of reaper that will meet you tomorrow.



**SAGITTARIUS:** (NOVEMBER 22 - DEC. 21) As the year comes to a close, remember that nothing is more important than getting all the gifts you want this holiday season.



**CAPRICORN:** (DEC. 23 - JANUARY 19) Homeland security will be drastically changed next month as a new color, "clear," is added as the absolute highest level of terror alert.

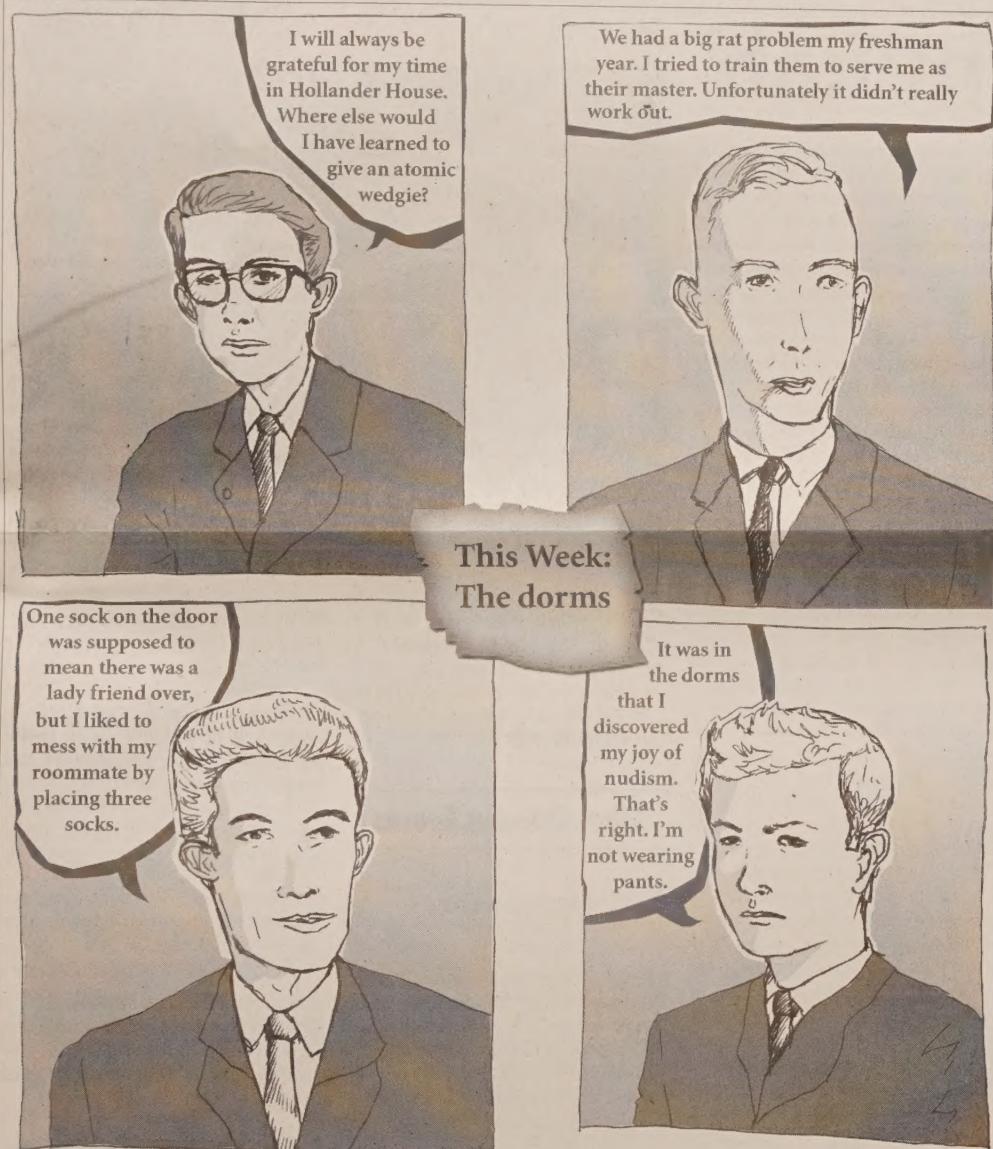


**AQUARIUS:** (JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 18) Security personnel at Hopkins like to read our sex column a lot. You're probably not one of them, since you're not reading it right now.



**PISCES:** (FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 20) Secretary of Crappy Food will be a new position in the President's cabinet for the next four years. That creepy clown for Jack in the Box will first take the position.

## Yearbook Confessions



## December brings on the pain

Well, it's finally December, and all across Baltimore, everyone is asking the same question: Why does this month suck so much? It's a difficult question, one which has plagued great minds throughout the ages — even Shakespeare once wrote, "O December, foulest of months, how doth ye suck." What is it about this twelfth month that everyone despises so much?

The answer is actually quite simple. There are four main reasons that December is a stupid month. I will now examine these in detail.

1) It's frickin' cold. That's right: December is a really cold month. Sure, it's not as cold as, say, January or February, but it's almost there. It's also just cold enough to be annoying, but not cold enough to snow. This is a terrible waste of cold. Oh yeah, and did I mention the trees are all bare? And the flowers are all dead? Hooray for death metaphors!

2) There's less daylight. Less sun = more darkness = sad people. There's even a clinical name for this: Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD. Get it? The acronym is SAD? Because the people are sad? Man, doctors are clever.

3) It's time for finals. So it's cold. And lifeless. And people are depressed. Sounds like a good time for some extra pain! Yes, finals are here, and they're awful. I can't even begin to imagine how they could've been

invented. Oh wait, yes I can.

The scene: a secret underground laboratory somewhere in England.

The time: the early 1800s.

The players: I don't know. Two English dudes. Let's give them funny English names, like Reginald Fumperley and Humphrey Winkletoe.

## MATT DIAMOND

## ONE FRY SHORT

Reginald: My my, Humphrey! We have such stupid names!

Humphrey: Egads! How annoying!

Reginald: Let's spread our misery by making kids take a stupid test!

Humphrey: Indubitably!

Reginald: It will be very long! And difficult! And we'll make them all squeeze into a tiny room and use pencils!

Humphrey: But Reginald, what number pencil shall they use?

Reginald: Methinks a number three!

Humphrey: Nay! It shall be number two!

Reginald: Hooray!

Humphrey: Now let's invent ventilation shafts so we don't die!

END SCENE.

4) It's the holiday season. Sure, you might think the holidays are a time for joy, love, and high spirits. And you'd be right, sort of. But you're forgetting a few things.

a) You have to buy presents. For everyone. Do you hate having money? Oh man, you're gonna love this!

b) Mall Santas. They're fat. They're hairy. They're holding children. And yes, they're everywhere.

c) Holiday-themed products. Now M&Ms are red and green! Oh wait, so is everything else.

d) Revival of the Christmas vs. Hanukkah debate. Santa Claus vs. Hanukkah Harry. One day of awesome presents vs. eight days of crappy presents. Red and green vs. blue and white. Come on, people, let's stop the hating.

e) Joy overload. Is there such a thing as too much holiday cheer? Yes, yes there is.

f) Old Navy holiday commercials. This requires no further explanation.

In conclusion, December is a waste of everyone's time. We should take it out of the calendar and tack the 31 days onto July, which is a far more awesome month.

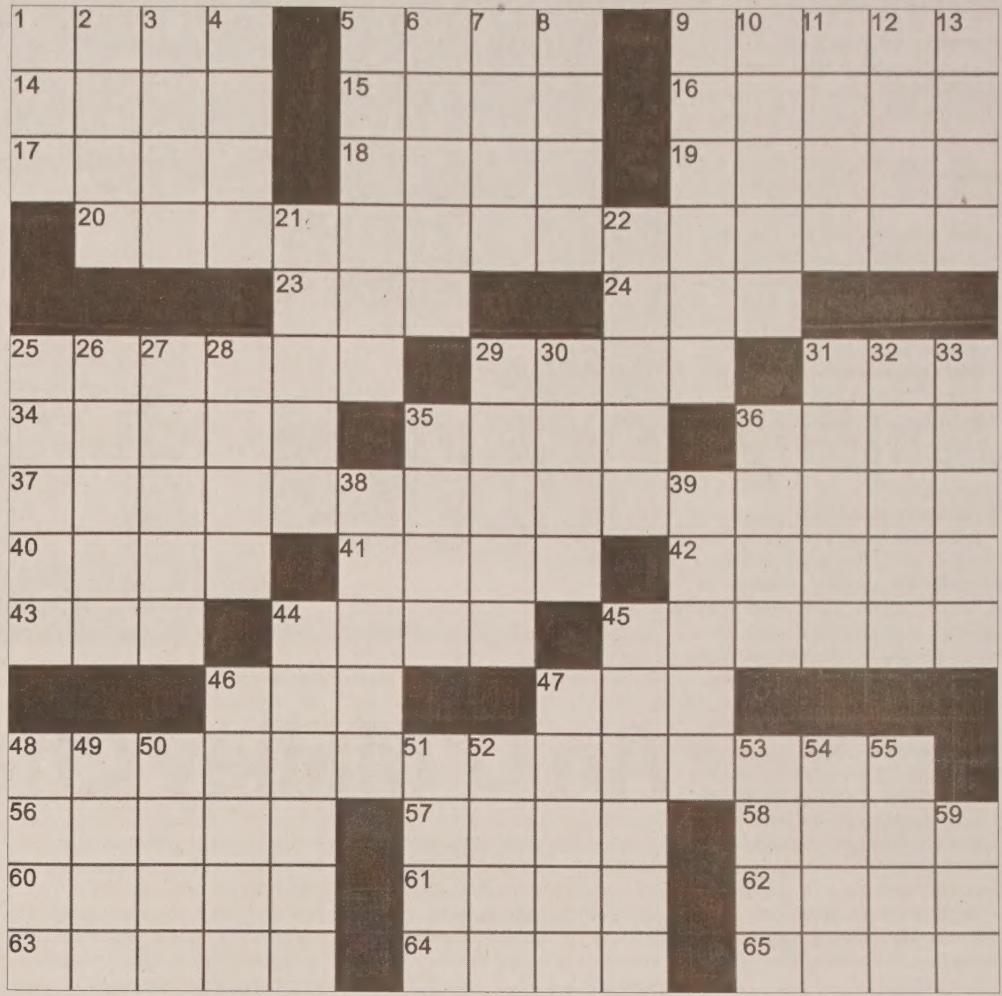
Oh yeah, and Happy Holidays.

Matt Diamond makes the Grinch look like a pansy and can be contacted at [PianoMattD@aol.com](mailto:PianoMattD@aol.com).

## CARTOONS, ETC.

## Xword: Great Composers

BY MICHAEL SHTEYMAN



## Across

- The Red planet
- Visit a store, maybe
- Water vapor
- Dies \_\_\_\_\_ (Mozart's composition)
- Figure skater Lipinski or actress Reid
- Popular Florida resort site
- Bridle strap
- Be compliant
- Norwegian playwright who wrote "Peer Gynt"
- Classical composer (1750-1825)
- Tennis necessity
- Grassy location
- Peaceful
- Declared
- High school junior's exam: abbr.
- Alternative to "hi"
- Pharmacist's amount
- Antonym of "different"
- Romantic composer (1829-1894)
- VCR button or an octagonal road sign
- "Right on"
- "American Justice" channel
- Greek goddess of dawn
- Ski resort transport
- It is visible on the horizon
- Essence
- Mover's need
- Baroque composer (1678-1741)
- Auditory stimulus
- Surrealist Salvador
- Agnes
- Cavalry sword
- Norway's capital
- Poet Pound
- Greek letter often used in mathematics to designate an angle
- Bring up
- Observed

## Down

- Fallen Russian orbiter
- Length times width
- Drops from the sky
- Mailed
- High
- Smoking is a bad one
- Black and white cookie
- Settles a debt
- Prepared for a photo shoot
- Leg bone
- Facility
- From the United States: abbr.
- Skirt style
- Tear-jerker
- From another planet
- Full moon, e.g.
- Slow tempo in music
- Singing voices above tenors
- Sound of a hoofbeat
- Opposite of 5-down
- Words of clarification
- French Composer Camille Saint-\_\_\_\_\_
- Compound useful in organic chemistry and crossword puzzles
- Former director of the CIA George \_\_\_\_\_
- Parliament in Russia
- Jazz musician Getz
- Jewish scholar
- Finnish bath
- Treeless area in Siberia
- Guardian angel, maybe
- Tripled trio
- Luxurious home
- Helper: abbr.
- Biblical boater
- Part of an IV
- Olfactory stimulus
- Flower holder
- Designer Sara and director Ang
- Short time out?
- Memo opener
- Word in many California place names

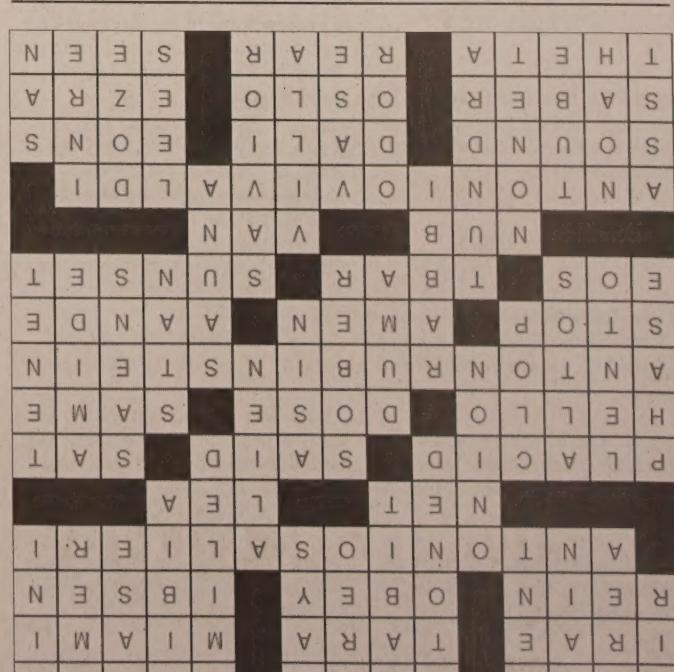
## The Doodle Showcase



Welcome to the final showcase of the semester! Once again junior Roy Blumenfeld presents several pieces. Each piece seems to be a slap in the face of the viewer, screaming, "Behold, witness my talent!"



## SOLUTIONS THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE



Start next semester right!  
Send your doodles to:  
[GRAPHICS@jhunewsletter.com](mailto:GRAPHICS@jhunewsletter.com)

## CALENDAR

## FEATURED EVENTS

**Mankiw to give speech Monday**

Dr. N. Gregory Mankiw, advisor to the president and nemesis to many of the students in Macro this semester, will be speaking on Monday, Dec. 6 in Shriver Hall. Mankiw will give a speech on jobs in America entitled "Big Jobs, Little Jobs: The Tugboat of the American Economy."

Mankiw has held the position of Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to President George W. Bush for the past year, and is also a professor at Harvard University teaching macroeconomics, microeconomics and statistics. His experiences and knowledge have allowed him to write and publish two textbooks, *Macroeconomics* and *Principles of Economics*, both of which have sold over a million copies and have been translated into seventeen languages for foreign sales. Mankiw's achievements also include his ongoing research for the National Bureau of Economic Research and consulting for the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and the Congressional Budget Office as well.

In this lecture, this chief economic advisor plans to address the troubles facing both national and international economies. Specifically he'll discuss the topic of the high salaries of chief executives and whether these incomes gouge consumers or merely reward good corporate leadership. Mankiw will also discuss outsourcing's benefits for the American economy, especially its effects domestic employment.

All MSE Symposium events are free and open to the public. Check out <http://www.jhu.edu/mse> for the schedule of upcoming speakers and more information about this year's theme.

—Anusha Gopalratnam



**Mayor O'Malley will make his second appearance on campus this year on Wed. to light the "Giant Menorah."**

DENISE TERRY/NEWS-LETTER

**An O'Malley Chanukah**

Baltimore's ever popular Mayor Martin O'Malley and Congressman Ben Cardin are coming to Hopkins next Wednesday to light a giant menorah in the school's first ever Chanukah celebration. The "Giant Menorah" will be set up in the Upper Quad near Gilman Hall and the lighting ceremonies begin at 5 p.m.

Chanukah is the famous Jewish "Festival of Lights" celebrating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem as well as the legend of one day's oil burning for eight days until the supply could be replenished. In a press release, Rabbi Zev Gopin, the Director of Chabad and Spiritual Adviser to the

Jewish Heritage Student Union, describes the message of Chanukah as "one of hope in the face of extreme adversity... a message with broad appeal to everyone who believes in religious freedom and that faith and determination can triumph against even the most overwhelming odds."

Wednesday's celebration will highlight a variety of Jewish cultural traditions with songs from Baltimore's Kol Haneorim choir, free traditional holiday snacks such as latkes, jelly doughnuts and chocolate coins. In addition to the traditional festivities, a juggler and a prize raffle will round out the evening.

Johns Hopkins' Chabad, whose primary goals involve highlighting Jewish pride and awareness, as well as bringing attention to Jewish cultural heritage, is sponsoring this event. The group regularly offers classes and holiday enrichment programs, and is currently running a seminar series on Kabala, a form of Jewish mysticism recently brought back into the public eye by pop-star Madonna.

For more information on Chabad or the Chanukah celebration call (410) 243-8672 or e-mail [chabadjh@yahoo.com](mailto:chabadjh@yahoo.com).

—John Lichfeld

at the University Baptist Church.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

7 p.m. Buddhist meditation will be practiced at the Interfaith Center.

8 p.m. The Graduate Christian Fellowship will have its weekly meeting in the Marylander Apartments, London Room. For more information e-mail [Bmac@jhu.edu](mailto:Bmac@jhu.edu).

**Performing Arts**

THURSDAY, DEC. 2

8 p.m. Sommore, Bro Man and Talent will perform at the Jokes On Us comedy club. For tickets and more info please visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

8 p.m. See the JHU Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater's performance For Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf in the Swirnow Theatre of the Mattin Center. Tickets are \$5, \$3 for students.

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

8 p.m. Check out the Buttered Niblet's Comedy Show in the Arellano Theatre (under the Glass Pavilion) to see Hopkins' only improv and sketch comedy group.

8 p.m. See the JHU Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater's performance For Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf in the Swirnow Theatre of the Mattin Center. Tickets are \$5, \$3 for students.

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

1:15 p.m. Jumah prayers will be held at the Interfaith Center. Visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~jhumso> for more information.

8 p.m. Seventh Day Adventist services with Fredrick Russell will be held at the Interfaith Center.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

Time TBA, Shabbat Dinner at the Interfaith center; for more information and updated times visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~jsa>.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

11 a.m. Catholic Mass will be held at the Interfaith Center. Visit <http://www.catholic.jhu.edu> for more information.

11 a.m. Aarthi will be held at the Interfaith Center, lower level. For more information, e-mail [HSC@jhu.edu](mailto:HSC@jhu.edu).

2 p.m. Stepping Stones Ministry will hold services in Shaffer 3, followed by a fellowship meeting at 3:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. Baptist services and contemporary worship will take place

**CALENDAR****DECEMBER 2 TO 9**

Colored Girls Who Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf in the Swirnow Theatre of the Mattin Center. Tickets are \$5, \$3 for students.

8 p.m. The Hopkins University Theatre presents Waiting for Lefty and The Mystery of Twicknam Vicarage in Levering Hall's Arellano Theatre. Tickets are \$8, \$3 for students.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

3 p.m. This season, try a new Christmas classic. See Black Nativity at the Carl Murphy Fine Arts Center, 2201 Argonne Dr. Call (443) 885-4440 for details.

6 p.m. The JHU Gospel Choir Fall Concert will take place in Levering Hall's Great Hall. Donations are welcome.

8 p.m. The Hopkins University Theatre presents Waiting for Lefty and The Mystery of Twicknam Vicarage in Levering Hall's Arellano Theatre. Tickets are \$8, \$3 for students.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

8 p.m. The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra performs Boundaries and Limits in the Shriver Hall Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for senior citizens and JHU affiliates.

8 p.m. Check out the Mental Notes Fall Concert in Bloomberg's Schafer Auditorium.

8 p.m. See the JHU Dunbar Baldwin Hughes Theater's performance For

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

5 p.m. Hear the Guarneri String Quartet at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center of the University of Maryland College Park. Call (301) 405-2787 for details.

6 p.m. Check out A Reading by Sarah Shun-Lien Bynum in the Tudor and Stuart Room (Room 323) of Gilman.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Oral Exams for Third Year Grad Students will take place in Gilman 323. This is a free event and worthy of the performing arts category.

7:30 p.m. The Lord of the Rings Symphony for Orchestra and Chorus will be performed in Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. For tickets and more information visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. International Human Rights Week: "Collection of Old Cell Phones" will take place in East Baltimore's Bloomberg Building, room E1002.

12 p.m. - International Human

FRIDAY, DEC. 3

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Check out the Book Sale at the Enoch Pratt Free Library.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

5 p.m. The National Aquarium in Baltimore offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. The discounted admission is a great deal, so don't pass it up! Even if you have been to the aquarium before, head down to check out the new dolphin show. For more information, including hours of operation, group discounts and directions, call (410) 567-3845.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

10 a.m.-4 p.m. B&O Railroad Museum presents Holiday Festival of Trains at 901 W. Pratt St. Call (410) 752-2490 for details.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Get a bird's eye view of Camden Yards with Oriole Park's Ballpark Tour at 333 W. Camden St. Call (410) 685-9800 for details.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

8 a.m. Stop by the free United Way

Thank You Breakfast in Levering Hall's Glass Pavilion.

SATURDAY, DEC. 4

10 a.m.-4 p.m. B&O Railroad Museum presents Holiday Festival of

Trains at 901 W. Pratt St. Call (410) 752-2490 for details.

**The Pixies and TV On the Radio to play D.C.'s Constitution Hall**

Where is your mind? If you're like hundreds of other indie fans in the Baltimore-D.C. area, it's probably resting until indie legends The Pixies take over D.C.'s Constitution Hall for 2 nights. Both shows have sold out, although the second show on Wednesday evening is receiving more attention due to fabulous and much-hyped openers TV On the Radio. Tickets didn't last long at all with one of the greatest acts of the last 15 years and what is likely to become one of the big names for the next 15 on the same bill.

The Pixies hail from Boston, where they formed in 1986. From then until 1993, when they officially disbanded, the band produced four albums, all of which were met with praise from both critics and the band's cult-like fan base. Lead singer Charles Thompson (better known as Black Francis and then later as Frank Black) and bassist Kim Deal each made hits themselves after the band broke up, and Deal's group The Breeders, achieving the most success and a hit single, "Canonball." Reunion rumors emerged in early 2000; however, nothing came of it until late 2003 when the band started jamming together. Now a little

over a year later they are on tour and selling out shows across the country with the rumors all pointing to a new album in the works.

Fresh off their selection as the winner of the prestigious "Shortlist Award" TV On the Radio hit the road and wound up in the supporting slot of the band they covered on their now famous *Young Liars* E.P. Based out of Brooklyn N.Y., TVOTR has a sound that defies easy comparison and challenges listeners and critics to box the band in. The mix is equal parts vocal excellence, programming genius and song writing talent that, when combined, sounds like the Beta Band hyped up on speed and infused with soul. The band was the brainchild of Tunde Adibame and David Sitek, who recorded most of the earlier songs together in Sitek's loft in Brooklyn. Now the group has expanded to five members and seems poised to take its sound to the next level.

The show is at 7:30 p.m. this Wednesday for those readers lucky enough to have tickets.

—John Lichfeld



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ATLANTICMUSIC.RU](http://WWW.ATLANTICMUSIC.RU)

Dickinson in Women's Basketball in the Athletics Center. Call (41) 516-7490 for details.

4 p.m. See the Blue Jays take on Dickinson in Men's Basketball in the Athletics Center. Call (41) 516-7490 for details.

6 p.m. Check out the Baltimore Parade of Boats at the Inner Harbor.

SUNDAY, DEC. 5

10 a.m. Join Cinema Sundays at the Charles Theatre, 1711 N. Charles St. This week's feature film is *Intimate Strangers*. Please call (410) 727-3456 for details.

11 a.m. Stop by this free Holiday Event at the George Peabody Library.

MONDAY, DEC. 6

10 a.m.-4 p.m. B&O Railroad Museum presents Holiday Festival of Trains at 901 W. Pratt St. Call (410) 752-2490 for details.

Dusk-11 p.m. Don't miss a light display that can be seen from space with Hamden's Miracle on 34th Street.

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Get a bird's eye view of Camden Yards with Oriole Park's Ballpark Tour at 333 W. Camden St. Call (410) 685-9800 for details.

4 p.m. Don't miss a chance to lace up your skates and hit the ice for Ice Skating in Fells Point at the Baltimore Ice Rink, 900 block of S. Caroline St. Call (410) 752-8632 for details.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

8 a.m. Stop by the free United Way Thank You Breakfast in Levering Hall's Glass Pavilion.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. B&O Railroad Museum presents Holiday Festival of Trains at 901 W. Pratt St. Call (410) 752-2490 for details.

## CALENDAR

## CONCERT AND MOVIE LISTINGS

## THURSDAY, DEC. 2

7 p.m. **Blonde Redhead and Cam Cameo** will perform at the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more info visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. **Black Sheep and Asheru** with guests will perform at the Ottobar. For more info visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. **Railroad Earth and Smooth Kentucky** will perform at the Funk Box. For more info visit <http://www.thefunkbox.com>.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 3

8 p.m. **Quarry, Anamide, Solarcut and Fourth Element** will perform at the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more info visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. **Love Seed Mama Jump with Fools and Horses** will perform at the Funk Box. For more info visit <http://www.thefunkbox.com>.

9 p.m. **THE HENRY FAMILY, IRONBOSS, DEAD END BOYS, AND LUCKY MAN** will perform at the Ottobar. For more info visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **Blonde Redhead and Cam Cameo** will perform at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. For more info visit <http://www.930.com>.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 4

8 p.m. **The Mahoney Brothers (America's #1 Tribute to the Beatles)** will perform at the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more info visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. **The Radiators** will perform at the Funk Box. For more info visit <http://www.thefunkbox.com>.

11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Get a bird's eye view of Camden Yards with Oriole Park's **Ballpark Tour** at 333 W. Camden St. Call (410) 685-9800 for details.

Dusk-11 p.m. Don't miss a light display that can be seen from space with **Hamden's Miracle on 34th Street**.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 9

4 p.m. Don't miss a chance to lace up your skates and hit the ice for **Ice Skating in Fells Point** at the Baltimore Ice Rink, 900 block of S. Caroline St. Call (410) 752-8632 for details.

5:30 p.m. Israel Hershberg, Founder and Artistic Director of the Jerusalem Studio School, will present **On Paintings That Make Him Cry: Epiphanies and Burning Ambitions** in the Mattin Center's Ross Jones Building, Room 101.

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. See **I Am From There: Paintings by Zahi Khamis** at the Patterson, 3134 Eastern Avenue. Call (410) 276-1651 for details.

## Lectures and Work-shops

## THURSDAY, DEC. 2

7 p.m. **The Pietism of the Book of Job** will be discussed in Gilman 123. This is a free event featuring speakers Michael Fox and Ruth Hallis-Bascom.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 3

12 p.m. A lecture on **Atomic Based Continuum Modeling of Deformation in Nanocrystalline Copper** will be given by Derek Warner. This free lecture will be held in Latrobe 106.

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Stop by the **Child on the Wing Workshop** in Macaulay Hall Room 400 sponsored by the Anthropology Department. The workshop will feature visiting professors and Hopkins post-doctoral fellows. Call Becky Daniels at (410) 516-7272 for details.

## MONDAY, DEC. 6

4 p.m. **Donniell Fishkind, Ph.D.** will give a lecture entitled **A Genus Bound for Digital Image Boundaries**

1 p.m. Don't miss Dr. Michael Sweat's **Global AIDS Day Seminar** at the Preclinical Teaching Building's Mountcastle Auditor. This event is sponsored by the Physicians for Human Rights.

3 p.m. Check out the **JHU Student-Designed Robots Bring Art to Life** sponsored by the Whiting School of Engineering and the Digital Media Center in the Mattin Center's SDS Room (Room 101).

4 p.m. See the **Bioinformatics and Transgenic Mice in the Study of Reproduction** lecture in Room W2030 of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe St. The presentation will be given by Dr. Martin M. Matzul of the Departments of Pathology and Molecular and Human Genetics of the Baylor College of Medicine.

## TUESDAY, DEC. 7

12:15 p.m. See Jack Schwartz, Director of Health Policy Maryland in the Attorney General's Office, speak on

12:15 p.m. **The U.S. Airforce Info Session** will take place in the Bloomberg building on N. Wolfe St. For more information call (410) 955-3034.

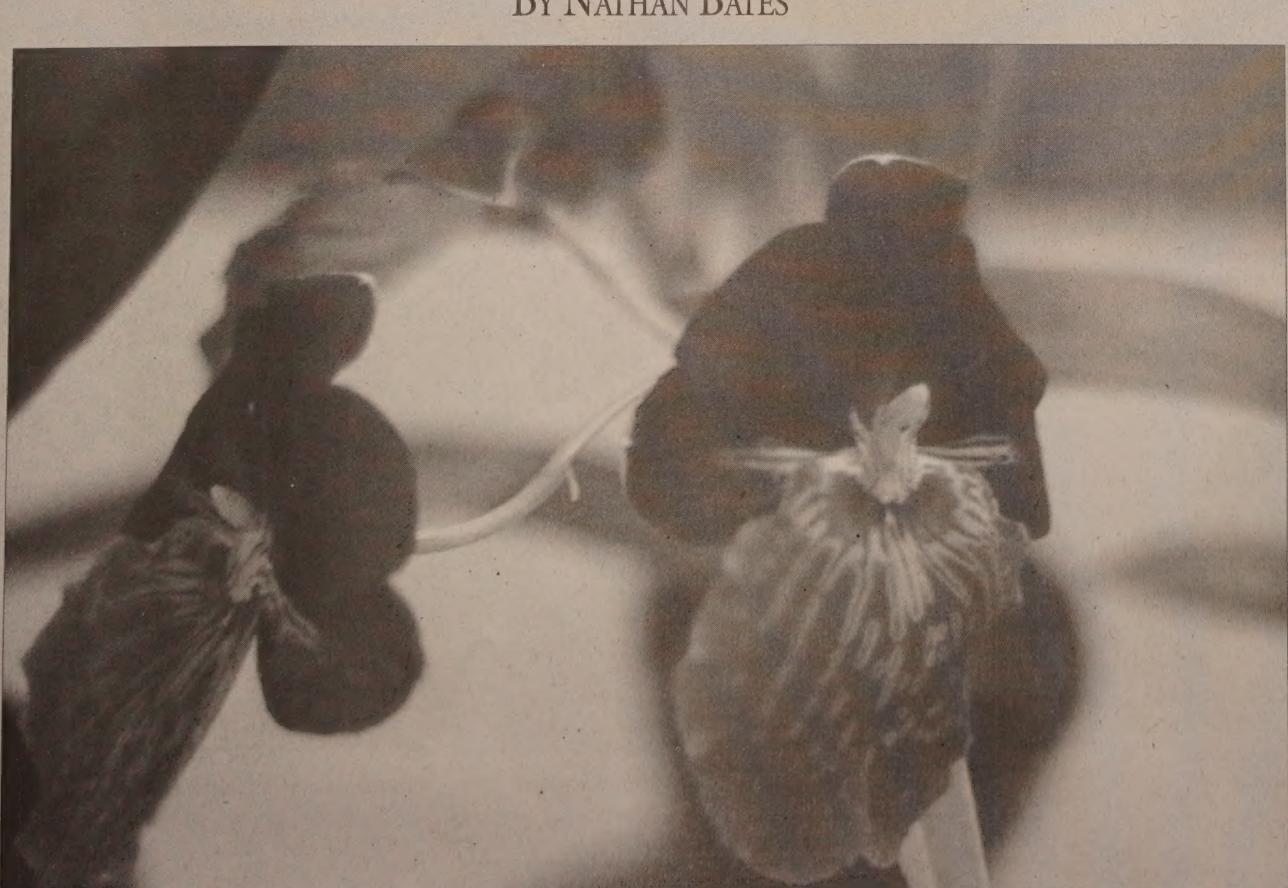
8 p.m. Check out a presentation of **Reinventing Peace: Making It a Reality After 9/11** by Howard Zinn, professor emeritus of political science at Boston University in Shriver Hall Auditorium.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 9

12:15 p.m. See Jack Schwartz, Director of Health Policy Maryland in the Attorney General's Office, speak on

## EXPOSURE

By NATHAN BATES



## CALENDAR

[www.rechertheatre.com](http://www.rechertheatre.com).

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

7:30 p.m. **Mos Def** will perform at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. For more info visit <http://www.930.com>.

7 p.m. **Kottonmouth Kings and special guest Pepper** will perform at the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more info visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. **Les George Leningrad, WZT Hearts and Atta Stratta** will perform at the Ottobar. For more info visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. **The Hackensaw Boys** will perform at the Funk Box. For more info visit <http://www.thefunkbox.com>.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 9

7:30 p.m. **Patti Smith** will perform at the 9:30 Club in Washington, D.C. For more info visit <http://www.930.com>.

9 p.m. **Mr. Greengenes** will perform at the Recher Theatre in Towson. For more info visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

9 p.m. **Zoso (The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Tribute Band) and LRS** will perform at the Funk Box. For more info visit <http://www.thefunkbox.com>.

11 p.m. **Satiate the Need** with Shakes Davies a.k.a. The Oranges Band's David Voyles spinning the best in new wave, garage punk and old school hip-hop and Mod Dave (Ninja Girls) playin' post punk, no wave, indie and disco punk at the Ottobar. For more info visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

## SHOWTIMES FOR THE CHARLES THEATRE FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

## Revivals

**Being Julia**  
Rated (R)- 1 hr. 45 min.  
2:20 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 7:20 p.m.,  
9:30 p.m. (2:20 p.m., 4:40 p.m.,  
9:30 p.m. only on Wednesday)

**Kinsey**  
Rated (R)- 1 hr. 58 min.  
2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m.,  
9:50 p.m.

**I Heart Huckabees**  
Rated (R)- 1 hr. 46 min.  
2:30 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7:30 p.m.,  
9:45 p.m. only on Thursday)

## SHOWTIMES FOR AMC TOWSON COMMONS 8 FOR FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

## The Incredibles

**After the Sunset**  
Rated (PG)- 1 hr. 55 min.  
4:15 p.m., 7:10 p.m., 10:10 p.m.

**Alexander**  
Rated (R)- 2 hrs. 56 min.  
4 p.m., 7:45 p.m.

**Christmas With the Kranks**  
Rated (PG)- 1 hr. 34 min.  
4:30 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:50 p.m.

**Briget Jones: The Edge of Reason**  
Rated (R)- 1 hr. 48 min.  
4:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m., 10:20 p.m.

**Maryland Law and Clinical Research, Finding A Way Forward** in Room W3030 of the Bloomberg School of Public Health, 615 N. Wolfe St.

Send details about future events, including date, time, location, a brief summary of the event and contact information to [News.Letter@jhu.edu](mailto:News.Letter@jhu.edu). In order to have the event make it into next week's calendar, please e-mail all events by the Monday before publication.

—Compiled by John Lichtenfeld and Anusha Gopalratnam

## NIGHTLIFE

## CLUBS

**9:30 Club**, 815 V. St., NW, Washington, 202-393-0930  
**Baja Beach Club**, 55 Market Pl., 410-727-0468

**Bohagars**, 701 S. Eden St., 410-563-7220  
**Black Cat**, 1811 14th St. NW, Washington, 202-667-7960

**Brass Monkey**, 1601 Eastern Ave., 410-522-0784  
**Buddies Pub and Jazz Club**, 313 N. Charles St., 410-332-4200

**Cat's Eye Pub**, 1730 Thames St., 410-276-9085

**Club 2314**, 2314 Boston St., 410-276-9556  
**DeGroen's Grill**, 104 Albemarle St., 410-837-5000

**Fletcher's**, 701 S. Bond St., 410-558-1889  
**Hal Daddy's**, 4119 E. Lombard St., 410-342-3239

**Harry's**, 1200 N. Charles Street, 410-685-2828  
**Hammerjacks**, 316 Guilford Ave., 410-234-0044

**Horse You Came In On**, 1626 Thames St., 410-327-8111  
**Latin Palace**, 509 S. Broadway, 410-522-6700

**Lava Lounge**, Pier Four, 410-539-7888  
**Ottobar**, 2549 N. Howard St., 410-662-0069

**Recher Theatre**, 512 York Rd., Towson, 410-337-7178  
**Redwood Trust**, 200 E. Redwood St., 410-669-9500

**Sonar**, 407 E. Saratoga St., 410-327-8333  
**The Talking Head**, 203 E. Davis St., 410-962-5588

**The Vault**, 401 W. Baltimore St., 410-244-6000  
**Waterfront Hotel**, 1710 Thames St., 410-327-4886

**Wyatt's**, 1614 Eastern Av., 410-732-8656

## COMEDY

**Comedy Factory**, 36 Light St., 410-752-4189  
**The Improv**, 6 Market Place at Power Plant Live, 410-727-8500  
**Tracy's Comedy Shop**, 9306 Harford Rd., 410-665-8600

## COFFEE

**Borders Bookstore and Music**, 415 York Road, 410-296-0791  
**Cafe Tattoo**, 4825 Belair Road, 410-325-7427

**Donna's**, 3101 St. Paul St., 410-889-3410

**E Level**, Levering Hall, JHU, 410-516-6219

**Fell's Point Cafe**, 723 S. Broadway, 410-327-8800

**Funk's Democratic Coffee Spot**, 1818 Eastern Av., 410-276-3865

**Images Cafe**, 3120 St. Paul St., 410-235-3054

**Margarets Cafe**, 909 Fell St., 410-276-5606

**One World Cafe**, 100 W. University Parkway, 410-235-5777

**Sweet Retreats**, 3215 N. Charles St.

**XandO**, 3003 N. Charles St., 410-889-7076

**Ze Mean Bean Cafe**, 1739 Fleet St., 410-675-5999

## MOVIE THEATRES

**AMC Towson Commons 8**, 435 York Road, Ste. 200, 410-825-5233  
**Charles Theatre**, 1711 N. Charles St., 410-727-FILM  
**Rotunda Cinematheque**, 711 W. 40th St., 410-235-4800  
**Senator Theatre**, 5904 York Rd., 410-435-8338

# CULTUREFEST

PHOTOS BY NEWS-Letter STAFF



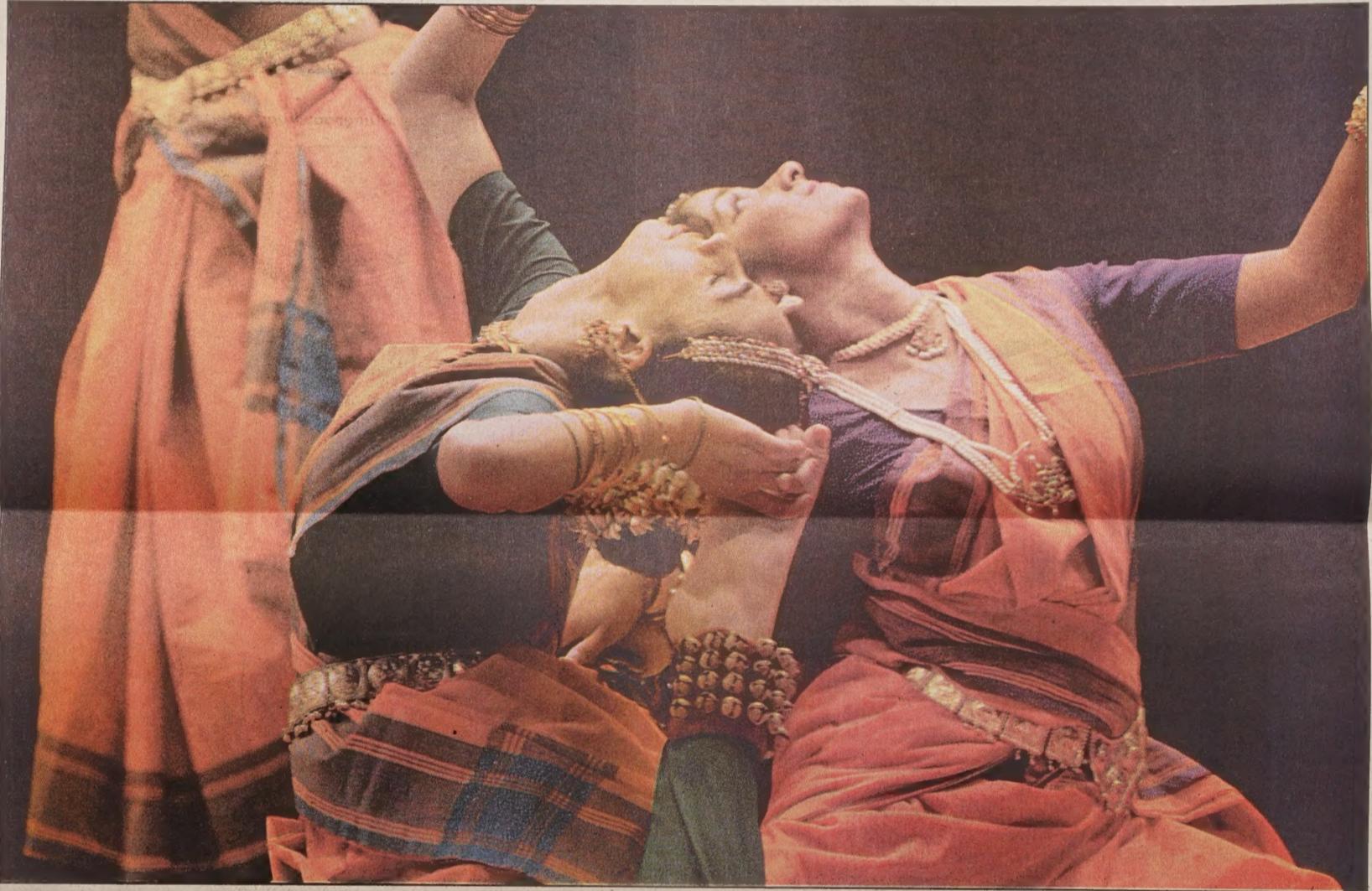
ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-Letter

Graduate student Talmesha Richards and sophomore Amy Kjose dance with the Ladybirds at the Culture Show. The Ladybirds performed a variety of dance styles including jazz, ballet and hip hop.



VADIM GRETCHOUCHKIN/NEWS-Letter

Miss Cuba, Junior Valentina Rodriguez won the *Faces of The Caribbean* Pageant. The pageant displayed Caribbean and South American culture.



ROBIN SHAW/NEWS-Letter

Juniors Archana Shah and Maya Sathyandhan perform with dance group Shakti at the Culture Show. During the show, 20 groups took the stage in the packed Shriver auditorium.



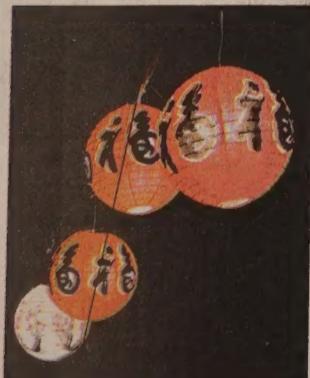
TURSINA ABDUL RASHID/NEWS-Letter

Students enjoy ethnic cuisine at the International Night Market. The line for the catered cuisine stretched all the way to the Breezeway at one point.



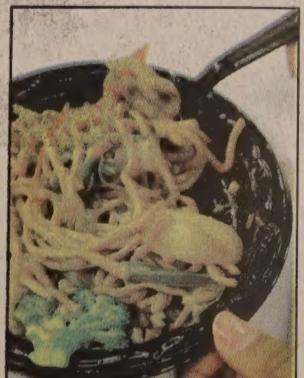
KEVIN FU/NEWS-Letter

Neena Marupudi, a grad student, performs in the Kuchipudi style at the Indian Classical Dance Show.



TURSINA ABDUL RASHID/NEWS-Letter

Lanterns adorn the Glass Pav for the International Night Market.



TURSINA ABDUL RASHID/NEWS-Letter

A wide variety of cultural dishes were available at the market.